

Granton & District Community Council
Monday, 2 February 2026, 18:30
RWCC and on MsTeams

In Attendance: Fred Marinello, George Gordon, Susan Allan, David Jamieson, Ida Maspero, Rod Shearer, Cllr Stuart Dobbin, Tamsin Grainger, Suzanne Ebel (Minutes)

Online: Lorna Forsyth

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Fred welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

These were received from Carolyn Samson, Jill Talēyarkhan, PC Sarah Hall, PC Tony Lawrence, Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie, Ben McPherson MSP, Tracey Gilbert MP

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

There were no matters arising. The Minutes were moved by Georges and seconded by Susan.

4. Police Report

OFFICIAL

Good morning Fred / George

Sarah and I are dayshift today so won't make the Community Council. Here is the Police report for January.

There were 47 crimes recorded.

Vehicle Crime

3/1/26 and 22/1 two cars stolen
7/1/ attempt theft of a campervan
16/1 vandalism to a car

Housebreaking

15/1 a property was broken into when glass in the patio door was smashed and entry gained with items stolen.

Other crimes of note

Approximately 2am on 28/1 a 26-year-old male was assaulted by three males as he was walking home.

Be Bright, Be Seen Event

Police Scotland and partners carried out an engagement event with cyclists and pedestrians on the cyclepath at Connaught Place last week.

Police Scotland carried out security marking of bikes, high viz equipment was given out and safety advice was discussed.

Drop Ins

Morrisons, Pilton Drive – Saturday 28th February 1030 to 1200

Granton Library, Wardieburn Terrace – Monday 9th March 1400 to 1500

Sarah and I had the pleasure of being judges for Granton Primary's annual poetry competition. The kids were all fantastic and remembered the poems off by heart.

5. Elected Members' Reports

Cllr Dobbin

'There has been a working group led by Ben McPherson, our MSP, consisting of representatives from the Scottish Government, the City Council, the Fire and Police services, the community council, as well as Councillors, such as myself and progress has been made.

Sherrif officers served notice to the encampments on 5 January 2026 for them to vacate. This notice – by law – allowed for the process of appeal. As no appeal was received by the date required, the Scottish Government has now instructed solicitors to progress to the second and final order for removal. This process is defined by law. They are in discussion with Sherrif Officers to set a date for this, which is expected to happen in the next one to three weeks. There is a contractor on standby to move in once the site is vacated, who is responsible to make the site secure.

The Scottish budget announced in January included funding for the proposed Art Works so I am hopeful that work will then be able to proceed in a reasonable timeframe. I am also expecting that LAR Housing Trust will now be able to get clear access to the Madelvic Factory building in order to start their very exciting development of new homes.'

Cllr Dobbin remarked that it was budget time for CEC so there were many discussions in progress.

Questions

1. Tamsin asked if the LAR plans had changed. This was her impression from the granton;hub AGM. Cllr Dobbin was unaware of any changes.
2. David asked if Cllr Dobbin had heard anything further in relation to the sycamores growing out of the sea wall as they will form a hedge if nothing is done about them. Are there still questions about who owns the sea wall? George and Cllr Dobbin said that as far as they knew it was CEC, who have responsibility for dealing with this.
3. The issue of Perfect Clean was mentioned again. There have been *many* complaints about this company's bad service received from the public to the community council. Cllr Dobbin said that people should contact him so that he can collate the evidence.
4. Boswall Crescent Park – this is fully funded; we are just waiting for a start date and, probably, better weather.

6. Secretary's Report

a. Matters Arising from Secretary's Report

George has circulated the consultation notices by email prior to the meeting. There is still no word about the Neighbourhood Networks and what will replace them. Ida represented GDCC at the civic meeting

7. Treasurer's Report

a. Matters Arising from Treasurer's Report

There is no change in the bank balance at present. A cheque for the room rent, £18.00. has been issued. A question was raised as to what the community council uses its money for, it was responded to with room rent, equipment, donations to local charities, and other collaborative work so the community council has to be careful and not show any bias to one single group or organisation in our area.

8. Engagement and Inclusion Officer's Report

1. Ida continues to work on improvements to the front and back end of the website. There has been a rise in the number of Facebook followers and website traffic.
2. The reconstituted West Granton and West Pilton Community Council meets again on 9 February 2026 and is hoping to get a critical mass of people to join and get it going. George asked Ida to remind them that the EACC should be helping them.
3. The Urban Forestry Challenge Fund is open for applications again in November. It is an initiative to create green cover through trees and enhance the green spaces in cities. There are two levels of funding:
 - Projects from £2,000 up to £20,000.
 - Projects over £20,000 and up to £100,000.

Funds can be used over a maximum of three years. The budget should clearly show how you plan to use the funds each year. Funding is for new planting and maintenance.

Your application has to state the Tree Equity Score (Low, Moderate, High, or Highest) for your neighbourhood (relates to SIMD). Royston Wardieburn scores high, so would be considered for funding. If an application was made, we would need to consider where best to place trees – perhaps street trees on the corner plots – and which local organisations might want to partner with GDCC. Ida suggested forming a sub-group to do preparatory work on this in the coming months ahead of a possible application. George mentioned that many of the corner plots were council land so there might be maintenance issues. Susan added that there might already be applications in so GDCC would need to be careful not to tread on any toes.

9. North-West Locality

1. George commented that everything seems to have stopped and there has been no communication in relation to the locality model. This sits with the Edinburgh Partnership who are not keeping the communities informed
2. Neighbourhood Network – GDCC met with South Queensferry and Leith CC with CEET's assistance. GDCC explained how they had engaged with smaller groups to encourage them to apply to the CGF. CEET is looking at introducing hubs in future and looking at introducing Leith Decides as a model across the city.
3. Cllr Dobbin said the anticipated yields for participatory budgeting will be around £667k, The Neighbourhood Network will hear about the proposed scheme on 3 February.
4. George and Fred both commented that they were extremely concerned that the participatory budget model was going to be used as this severely disadvantages smaller groups and organisations that provide vital services but do not have the mail list compared to the bigger groups and organisations, like Spartans and North Edinburgh Arts which can generate more votes for less important activities. It should not be a popularity contest, but a needs based exercise to enhance services for all groups and the public in the area.

Consultation, Planning and Licensing

Planning

1. David advised that he had submitted a response on behalf of Wardie Bay to the City Plan 2040 consultation as the questions were very specific to your area.
2. Ida said that there seemed to be emphasis on the local place plans and David responded that perhaps GDCC could get something in for this. George agreed and said that they should discuss and then put something in place for our next meeting.
3. It was observed that (R2) NEAT have the budget for active travel.
4. There are no planning applications of note.
5. CEC Planning is 'minded to consent' the development of the plot on Granton Square (next to Empty Kitchens). A contribution of £110k to education has been agreed.
6. David is still waiting to hear the decision regarding the extension of the sea walls in Granton Harbour.

Licensing

The licence application for extended hours in Morrisons, Ferry Road has been rejected. The extended hours application for the Morrisons garage at Granton was also rejected by the Board.

10. AOCB

1. GDCC had been contacted by a local resident who pointed out that it was a long walk up to Granton Square from some parts of the harbour developments. This can be challenging now that the service has been reduced to a 30-minute service. Cllr Dobbin will take this up. George commented that GDCC can take this up with Lothian Buses too as this could be a subsidised route. Rod added that the policy of rationalising bus stops will be bad for our aging population. He also made the point that the floating bus stops have created issues for people getting on and off buses. George said that he While we were discussing buses, Suzanne commented that the service –can be hit or miss – either late or doesn't appear according to timetabling.
2. Ida asked how many people we could have on the CC. Could we invite more people to join? George said yes, we can have up to 16 councillors.

11. Date and time of next meeting

Monday, 23 February 2026, 18:30, RWCC and MsTeams