

Granton & District Community Council
Monday, 23 February 2026, 18:30
RWCC and on MsTeams

In Attendance: Fred Marinello (Chair), Jill Talēyarkhan, David Jamieson, Ida Maspero, Tamsin Grainger, Rod Shearer, Charles Winstanley (West Ferryfield), Sally and Hasim, Suzanne Ebel (Minutes)

Online: not available for this meeting.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Fred welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

These were received from: George Gordon, Lorna Forsyth, Carolyn Samson, Susan Allan, PC Sarah Hall, PC Tony Lawrence, Cllr Stuart Dobbin, Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes. They were moved by David and seconded by Ida.

4. Police Report

OFFICIAL

I am dayshift today and Sarah is on holiday, so we won't make the Community Council I'm afraid.

Here is the Police report for February up to today since I provided January's report last month.

There were 39 crimes recorded from 1st February until today.

Vehicle Crime

13/2 – Car broken into and coins stolen.

15/2 – Car window smashed.

Housebreaking

No reported housebreakings.

Other crimes of note

16/2 Bicycle stolen from underground car park.

Various Road Traffic offences detected.

Drop Ins

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

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

5. Elected Members' Reports

a. Fred had an update meeting with Cllrs Dobbin and Dijkstra-Downie about the travellers' site. Two eviction orders have now been served but the remaining people are refusing to move. They are being supported by local activists and have some legal advice. The police do not want matters to escalate into confrontation, which is why they have been 'hands off' so far.

Alternative sites and accommodation have been offered to the travellers and they have been turned down. The travellers have stipulated three alternatives that they would consider in response. A major issue is that there are static caravans on site and these will need to be lifted out.

The travellers have been informed that both CEC and the Scottish Government have the right to remove them and are waiting for the courts to act again. There does not seem to be a plan of action if the travellers keep refusing to move.

Questions

Ida asked if it was possible to communicate the situation better. It is clear that people in the community do not understand what has been offered to the travellers or what the travellers want exactly.

b. Cllr Dobbin (response by email to a complaint raised by a Granton Medway resident. There have been a growing number of complaints about stair-cleaning (Perfect Clean) and the lack of maintenance and gardening services. A quick list of previous complaints, washing stairs with dirty mops and using dirty water, missed dates of cleansing, windows untouched, failure to do the back door and just the stairs, and failure to respond to complaints made by tenants.)

I will add this to the increasingly long list of complainants I have on this subject.

In the first instance I will arrange for the cleaners to get out to the stair in question and will contact [name] to let him know.

I am working to raise this as an issue with officers who need to a) ensure proper cleaning protocols are in place with the 3rd party service provider (or replace them) and b) check the work.

It is especially galling in the stairs that have been refurbished that the very poor cleaning is resulting in the new floors becoming seriously stained.

I am very happy for any further complaints to be directed to me.

6. Secretary's Report (by email)

a. Matters Arising from Secretary's Report

In relation to my report, I have as usual passed on all consultation events and communications.

b. The Neighbourhood Network has now completed its spend for 2025/26 and the 2026/27 budget is now open for applications, so we must encourage all organisations who feel that they meet the current criteria to apply.

c. North-West Local Community Planning Partnership – I may ask the councillors to find out whatever happened to this body given it was set up to comply with the Community Empowerment Act, which clearly is no longer occurring. What has been put in its place for the

North-West Locality will severely weaken the voice of community councils and local groups and organisations that were involved. This infers that the council has taken back control of this important piece of work and is now no longer complying with the act to devolve decision making. It is done under the guise of the Edinburgh Partnership, but in reality, that is the council in all but name as ironically it is generally the leader of the council that chairs the partnership, and the functions of the locality related to many other services that are within the purview of the Edinburgh Partnership. It was also highly attended by Police and Fire and Rescue who appreciated hearing the feedback and setting up good contacts within the community organisations involved and indeed the community council, and they have been also asking where they are now being involved or consulted with, so over to the councillors as I have reached the end of my potential of trying to find out what in reality is occurring, on many occasion without even a response from the lead officers.

d. The final point is to highlight further correspondence relating to stair cleaning and garden maintenance which I have passed over to the councillors to follow up on and a few specifics to give them a flavour of the traffic coming through to the community council, both from the website and the email address attached. It does appear to be a greater problem than is being made out in relation to the contractors' failures, and checks and balances are not in place to ensure that tenants are given the services that they after all pay for, which has been highlighted to us. It has also become relatively clear that members of the public find contacting the right person within the council to raise complaint or concerns difficult, which is also a common issue along with the lack of response from the automated systems that the council use. You may get an automatic response, but that is as far as you seem to be able to proceed. Again, something the councillors may wish to look at.

7. Treasurer's Report

a. Matters Arising from Treasurer's Report

A cheque for £18.00 has now been issued for the room rent.

8. Engagement and Inclusion Officer's Report

a. A local resident has been in contact again about the reduced service 22 timetable. Harbour residents wrote to LRT but just received a standard response that the route is not viable enough for a more frequent service. Cllr Dobbin is now taking this up with LRT. It can be a long walk for Harbour residents to access the 9 or other buses from Granton Square/Granton Road. Rod commented that he didn't feel that there had been enough notice of the fare increases or the timetable route changes by LRT. He gave the example of the removal of the service 49 route.

b. Email received from Katie Field

I am a member of Living Rent, the Tenants and Communities union in Scotland. We are looking to build an official branch in Granton and will be taking part in outreach activities, including door knocking and holding a stall outside Lidl this Friday 27th at 1pm. A huge part of our work is fighting landlords and taking on member defence cases. Currently, we are fighting for compensation for [name] in Granton Harbour who had to live in an inaccessible midmarket flat for years amongst other cases of unsuitable housing. We are looking to increase our members and continue to take on cases such as [name]. We would be grateful if you could let people know about us, if they are dealing with housing issues. They can join via the Living Rent webpage and then our Granton community organiser, Mairi will be in touch.

Question

Tamsin asked if Living Rent could also take up the stair-cleaning issues.

- c. Ida continues to work with Lloyd to add content and make improvements to the website.

9. Neighbourhood Network/NW Locality

Fred met with the other locality chairs, who are unhappy with the level of service from CEC, on 23 February 2026. There seems to be a desire to move to hubs, which will reduce the effectiveness of the localities as there is less of a connect directly with their communities.

10. Consultation, Planning and Licensing

- a. There are no new relevant planning applications.
- b. Brent Quinn, developer of 1 West Granton Road plot, wants to speak to GDCC re changes he wishes to make to his proposed plans. He is not happy that GDCC has objected previously to his application. There are questions about over development, poor design and building right to the boundaries.
- c. David is going to write to the councillors about Plot 35A at Granton Harbour.

11. AOCB

- a. There is a great deal of local concern at the amount of tree and general ground clearing that is being done around the Gasholder and along Waterfront Boulevard in preparation for various building projects. Ida reminded us that she had asked Sat Patel specifically about retention of some of it and Sat had indicated that it would be. This does not appear to be the case.
- b. Jill asked if anyone had had an update about the Crewe Road North pavements as some were done with slurry previously but not all.
- c. The very large trucks are back on Crewe Road North and not using the access road as they are supposed to. It seems that sat navs send them down there? As some of the pavements on Crewe Road North are so narrow, pedestrians are much closer to these trucks than previously.
- d. David noted that it was disappointing that none of the Visitor Levy money projects are in north Edinburgh. Aren't our councillors lobbying for this money? Public toilets would be good – Wardie Bay beach could really do with something as there is part of the vegetation there that is used as an open toilet.

12. Date and time of next meeting

Monday, 30 March 2026, 18:30, RWCC and online.

Ida gave her apologies in advance for the March meeting.