Granton & District Community Council
Monday, 31 August 2026, 18:30
RWCC and on MsTeams

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

Online: Lorna Forsyth, Carolyn Samson

1. **Chairman's Opening Remarks**
Fred welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Apologies**
These were received from Jill Taleyarkhan, MSP/Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
a. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes
There were no matters arising. The Minutes were proposed by George and seconded by David.

4. **Police Report**
No report was received. However, Carolyn advised that she had spoken to PC Sarah Hall recently who advised that the police were aware of a gang of youths who are targeting cars. A task force is being set up to tackle this issue.

5. **Elected Members' Reports**
Cllr Dobbin gave an update on the traveller encampment. The adjudication came more quickly than expected. The family's appeal against eviction was rejected on health and well-being grounds for the children. Technically the Scottish Government can enact eviction but the family can appeal to the Court of session and the Supreme Court. They were offered an alternative site for their statics but this was refused by the family who state that the children are enrolled in school and they have access to the services that they require e.g. GP.

Weeds – still an issue as so many pavements have significant weeds in the cracks. While the glyphosate spray is no longer in use, the pavements should still be swept regularly to keep the weed levels down and are not being deployed enough to be effective.

Questions
Tamsin asked why it was an issue as some of the 'weeds' were attractive and insect friendly. Cllr Dobbin replied that they break up the tarmac and split or raise flagstones, which causes issues for the elderly and less mobile and people with prams.
Carolyn said that she had asked one of the sweeper drivers what their instructions were and had been told that they are only instructed to do the main roads so many roads are missed.
David added that quite an aggressive machine was used to do Granton road and now the tarmac is even more broken. Can this be repaired and can the council think about how to tackle Granton Road in future?
Tamsin said that she had seen people spraying out in the street but didn't think that they were council employees. When she asked them what they were spraying they were reluctant to say.
Ida remarked that the council did not seem to have a coherent strategy for tackling this problem.

Cllr Dobbin said that if there is a bad area, can people let him know so that he can advise the relevant department.
Carolyn said that she had been speaking to Ewan Hyslop about funding potentially being pulled from North Edinburgh Childcare. If this happened, it would be damaging for many families and have far-reaching consequences. Cllr Dobbin replied that he understood there was one more year of funding and there are discussions ongoing about continuing the funding.
David asked Cllr Dobbin if he could say anything about the new owners at Granton Harbour. Cllr Dobbin replied that as far as he was aware, the deal is broadly struck but the issue of the roads' adoption was not settled.

6. Secretary's Report

a. Matters Arising from Secretary's Report

It has been quiet over the summer and George has forwarded anything that was of relevance to members. CEC are still trying to distance themselves from public fora, so they are not really hearing from communities and community planning is in danger of being removed.

He welcomed Xica Dabin-Debono to the meeting and proposed that she join the community council. This was seconded by Fred/David and George will set the official process in motion. Tamsin has now signed all the paperwork to become a full member of GDCC. A question was asked about induction for new members and George replied that it should happen a couple of times a year. Xica, Tamsin and Carolyn asked to be informed when the next session was scheduled.

7. Treasurer's Report

a. Matters Arising from Treasurer's Report

Lorna Forsyth has been Treasurer and a member of GDCC for 20 years and is stepping down from the Treasurer role. Fred thanked her for her valuable service. Jill will take up the role when she returns from India.

The balance in bank as of 30 April 2026 is £3,821.07 with petty cash of £88.30 (total £3,821.07).

8. Communication and Engagement Officer

Ida reported that there had been steady growth in media engagement on both Facebook and Instagram. There has been an increase of 76% in direct website traffic. Posts are being shared widely by organisations in north Edinburgh e.g. information about consultations and our own articles. It is also important to share the communications of local organisations ourselves.

Ida asked if we should have more of a presence at community events as we have been building some good momentum lately. No decision was reached but Fred added that GDCC will be busy with the developments taking shape this year.

Questions
Q: Is Sat Patel definitely coming to the next meeting with the Waterfront team?
A: Yes, along with someone from the Education department to speak about the new primary school.
Q: George will invite West Pilton and West Granton Community Council (and all relevant parties) to the next meeting as they are almost finished their setting up process.
A: Yes. Rod pointed out that the school consultation is important and could stand as an Agenda item on its own.

David asked if we could be clear about what we want to ask the Waterfront team as we don't get much time with them.
Carolyn asked if we should get a bigger meeting venue for a community meeting after we have spoken to the Waterfront team Fred indicated that we could have one in the café area in RWCC that should be big enough.

9. Consultation, Planning and Licensing

David said that he had not seen any relevant planning applications in the last three months. (The primary school and housing are in the next ward.) Carolyn pointed out that there was a planning application for 13 Boswall Grove that is for a full garden building in the back garden footprint and the neighbours were given 21 days to object. It will affect sight and light for these neighbours. There are only 15 houses in the street and a minimum of 20 objections are needed. George said that the community council had made the decision not to get involved in individual cases like this, but Carolyn can certainly direct people to resources that will help them make strong objections. David can sign post these. Carolyn added it would be handy to have a quick reference guide with these resources listed for the future.

10. North-West Locality

The council has been asked repeatedly why they are ignoring the localities and eventually they will need to answer.

11. AOCB

i. New speed signs – David pointed out that the new speed signs in Granton Road don't work if a car or van is parked in front of them and the one going towards Granton Square is partially obscured by a branch.
ii. The TEC meets next week. Should GDCC fight for the Granton Link? The Roseburn Path campaign highlighted the pinch points but do these override the potential benefits? The housing developments need an additional transport source as buses will not be enough. Rod commented that there had been a number of bus cancellations over August creating long gaps between buses on some services. George said that it is unlikely that the committee will narrow it down to one route. Better that we use our resources to mobilise the community and express GDCC's view. David and Ida will draw up a draft letter in support of the link for approval. George suggested that he, David and Ida involve some journalists to start the ball rolling with community awareness.

Question

Xica asked if GDCC could send a deputation and George responded that this is possible with seven days' notice. You might not get one though. Carolyn added that Leith Community Council was a good example of using a deputation to present the community view e.g. Princes Street closure and the effect on Leith Walk businesses.

iii. Remembrance Day at GPC – George asked what GDCC should do – who could attend and should we make a donation like last year?
iv. Should we do some 'talent identification' and let people shadow positions so that they can step up when required?
v. Boswall Crescent Park – Carolyn received this response from David Delargy when she chased him for a progress report:

We were delayed by our designers, and I do apologise, I sent the works out to tender 2 weeks ago and the[y] are due back on the 31st of August, if there are no issues with the returns, I expect to award the works by the 14 September with a start hopefully by mid-October.

Once awarded I will place sign board up in the park detailing start dates, the contractor's information, and the duration of the works.

vi. Donald McDonald award for volunteering – Suzanne asked if GDCC might consider an annual award/grant in Donald's name. The subject could be volunteering. It was agreed that we will think about this and put forward some ideas at the next meeting.

12. Date and time of next meeting

Monday, 28 September 2026, at RWCC and online.