

**Granton & District Community Council**  
Monday 26 March 2018, 7pm at RWCC  
Meeting minutes

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In Attendance: Fred Marinello (Chair), Donald McDonald, Jill Talēyarkhan, Lorna Forsyth, Suzanne Ebel (Minutes), Cllr George Gordon, Cllr Jim Campbell, Cllr Cammy Day, PC Tony Lawrence, Anne Reid, Rod Shearer Trinity CC; Rev Helen Mee

**1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**

Fred welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mizan Rahman (Secretary), Deidre Brock MP., Ben McPherson MSP, Cllr Ellie Bird, Kashif Ather

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

a. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

There were no matters arising. The Minutes were proposed by Lorna Forsyth and seconded by Jill Talēyarkhan.

**4. Guest Speaker**

a. Rev. Helen M Mee, Granton United Church talked to us about the services they offer to the local community. Helen gave us a potted history of how this Local Ecumenical Project (LEP: joint venture between the Methodist and United Reform Church) came to be and explained the slightly complicated ownership of various parts of the church/housing complex.

The congregation is a small, elderly one but they have volunteered at Fresh Start, set up lunch clubs and acted as Port of Leith Housing Trustees. Their lunch club runs almost all year on a Tuesday and offers a three course lunch for £3.50. There are also the usual services on a Sunday. Every six weeks or so, they hold a community event and these are well supported by friends, family and neighbours. They are always looking for volunteers to help here!

There is capacity for hall rentals. There are two halls with laminate flooring, a well-equipped kitchen and toilets so contact the church if you would like to rent the space. The activity must serve the community in some way.

**5. Police Report**

a. PC Lawrence reported that it had been quiet recently but there had been some bicycles stolen from Lower Granton Road/Granton Square and at East Pilton Farm. Here the thieves had scaled the drainpipes two or three floors up and then lowered the bikes down using ropes.

Our Secretary's car had been broken into during the February meeting and small items of little value had been stolen. Another nearby car had also been broken into and small items stolen. It was not clear why these cars had been targeted. There had also been two cars vandalised (windscreens smashed) in the Boswall area.

b. PC Lawrence reported that they were anticipating an increase in anti-social behaviour as it was the school holidays and so extra resources had been drafted into cope with any incidents. There are some plans for a more targeted approach to this but PC Lawrence was waiting for the details to be finalised before sharing this with the CCs in the area.

c. Tony talked to us about setting up 'no cold calling zones' in our ward. These work best if a street or development signs up to them so that a consistent message is given to potential cold callers. At least 40% of the street/development must be in favour of doing this. The CEC and PoliceScotland pay for the signage. They therefore can run well in tandem with a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. You can easily establish a no cold calling zone by completing an online form at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/nccz](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/nccz) or contacting Trading Standards on 0131 608 1100. **We will also have a couple of information packs available at our next meeting.**

Charities are exempt from the rules but can seek special permission from the Local Trading Standards for authorisation. (The most recent cold callers have been attempting to sell fake designer wares around Edinburgh.)

## 6. Elected Member Reports

a. Cllr Day reported that there had been an application from national Museums of Scotland to purchase further land in Granton. CEC had asked for further details about the proposed use.

b. Cllr Day confirmed that CEC had purchased the Granton gasholder and railway building from National Grid and plans were being discussed as to the best use eg. hotel, concert venue etc. In the meantime it is proposed to light the gasholder structure to make it a feature until a firm plan is established. Cllr Day said that whatever was decided, the building would be part of the wider plans for the Waterfront. Robertsons will also be building some affordable housing on this land.

c. Despite the continuing reduction in Government funding, the Edinburgh Budget had been passed.

d. Forty-four new social housing units will be constructed by Robertsons next to the nursing home on the old primary school site and work will begin soon.

e. Cllrs Gordon and Campbell had nothing further to add but Cllr Campbell said that it would be good to bring some real economic activity to the area.

f. Donald McDonald asked Cllr Day what was happening to the Granton Walled Garden as he had been told that they were only going to be there for another three weeks. Cllr Day replied that as far as he was aware nothing was happening there. In fact they had been asked to make an application for funding for the path required to run adjacent to the Social Bite Village.

g. Jill advised that notice had been sent by Robertsons that they were commencing building work on the Crewe Road North site some time ago but nothing seemed to be happening. Cllr Day replied that they bundled the sites when applying for permission but this shouldn't affect work. Cllr Gordon said that the permissions had

been approved but it might be that there were still issues with access and traffic movement.

h. Cllr Gordon said that he had enquired **again** about why the pavement renewal on Crewe Road North had stalled but had not received a response. It may be that a suitable solution is yet to be found for the 'slurry' repairs.

**7. Secretary's Report**

a. Matters Arising from Secretary's Report

There were no issues arising from the Secretary's Report.

b. The Secretary provided the monthly newsletter and wanted to draw attention to the Scottish Parliament's Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee consultation on bank closures and their impact on the community.

**8. Treasurer's Report**

a. Matters Arising from Treasurer's Report

Room rent of £65 has been paid to RWCC and pending supply of receipts, there are two payments of £123.00 and £110.88 due to the Secretary. After these payments the balance will be £1348.77. There were no issues arising from the Treasurer's Report.

**9. Neighbourhood Partnership Report**

a. Cllr Campbell stated that there had been some difficulty in communicating the new structure around the city. The Localities Committees are Council-led and should be there for their communities, holding the officers in the Locality Offices to account. Also, Community Councils are still not clear what their role in the structure is. Donald McDonald asked what the future for Community Councils is, do they have a place? Cllr Campbell replied that CCs are established by the Scottish Government so only they can abolish them. There is a consultation currently on what the boundaries for CCs should be. Cllr Campbell reiterated that Locality Offices are the first port of call for CEC if they wanted to know what communities thought. Neighbourhood Partnerships perhaps haven't worked quite as they were intended to.

**10. AOCB**

a. There were a few comments made about the proposed Lower Granton Road cycle path but the consensus was to wait and see what the official consultation document looks like. It is hoped that comments and suggestions made during the pre-consultation events have been taken into consideration. Cllr Campbell commented that the cycle path was just one of many projects in the Ward, in progress.

b. Granton Parish Church have received funding of £88k from the Scottish Government's Blue Skies Project to replace the windows in the halls, install more efficient lighting, build a new entrance and improve the kitchen facilities. This will make the church more energy-efficient and help them with their community plans. The work will be going out to tender soon and there will be a part-time job for a local person as a Church Climate Change Officer. Applications will be open to local unemployed people first.

c. The local credit union (now the Castle Building Society) shut on 28 March 2018 and moved to Great Junction Street. The manager said that there was not enough

passing custom and they hoped this would improve in an area with more footfall. The vacated property will be put up for sale.

d. There had been a public consultation event in Leith Library about the tram extension from Roseburn to Newhaven. It appears that the proposed route could cause a great deal of disruption in its proposed form. There was perhaps an alternative route using the current cycle path (old train line) which might be less disruptive and could be reconfigured for trams, cyclists and pedestrians.

e. Martyn Whyte submitted a report about the recent Edinburgh Association of Community Councils meeting. The main point of interest was the presentation about GDPR coming into force on 25 May 2018 and how this would affect GDCC.

**11. Date and time of next meeting**

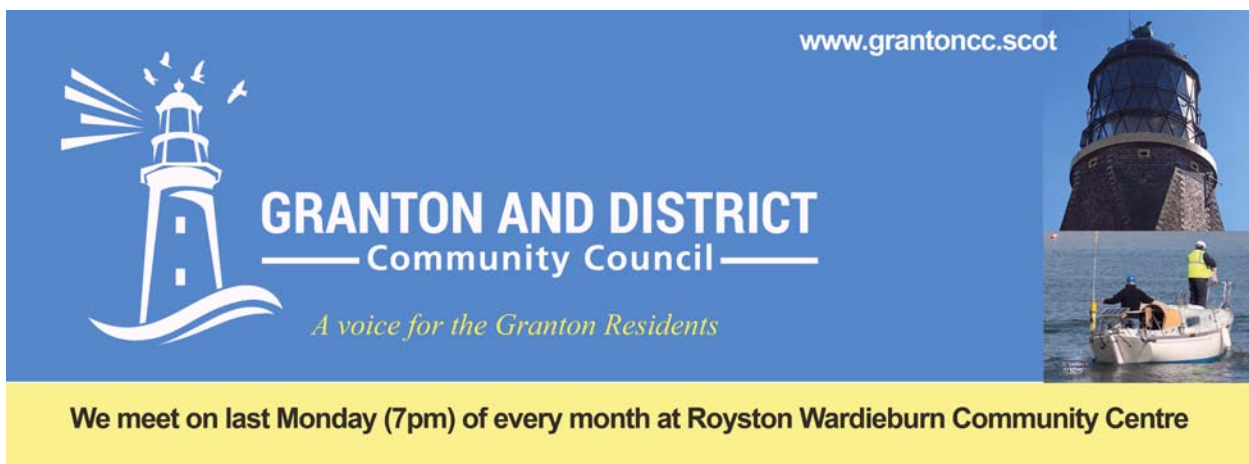
Royston and Wardieburn Community Centre, Monday 30 April 2018

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Contact: [secretary@grantoncc.scot](mailto:secretary@grantoncc.scot) | [www.grantoncc.scot](http://www.grantoncc.scot)

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The banner features a blue background with a white lighthouse logo on the left. The text 'GRANTON AND DISTRICT Community Council' is centered in white, with the tagline 'A voice for the Granton Residents' below it. The website 'www.grantoncc.scot' is in the top right. A photograph of a stone lighthouse tower and a boat on the water is on the right side.

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**GRANTON AND DISTRICT**  
Community Council

*A voice for the Granton Residents*

**We meet on last Monday (7pm) of every month at Royston Wardieburn Community Centre**