



OFFICIAL

Great Park Neighbourhood Association

Great Park Community Centre
Roseden Way
Great Park
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE13 9BD

Email: secretary@gpna.uk

GPNA Minutes

Date: 30.10.2023

Time: 7:00 PM - 8.00 PM

Venue: Plaza Cafe Bistro, Bowmont House, Wagonway Dr, Newcastle upon Tyne
NE13 9BL

Present	Jamie Robinson (Chair) Ian Tew (Vice Chair) Sophie Cox (Secretary) Paul Crosby (Committee Member) Michael Forster (Committee Member) Chris Dawson (Committee Member) Claire Khan (Committee Member) Neil Collington (Committee Member) Stuart Cannon	Donna Rawling (Committee Member) Susan Wannop (NCC) Lesley McLean Peter Kirby Dave McGregor Anne & Dave Fraser
Apologies	Peter Monaghan (Committee Member) Steven Mason (Treasurer) Chris Clarke (Committee Member) Sam Walton (Committee Member)	
Absences	N/A	

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome and introductions

All members introduced themselves and the reasons behind why they joined GPNA.

2. Election of committee roles

The committee elected the following roles:

Chair: Jamie Robinson

Proxy votes -Steven Mason, Chris Clarke, Peter Monaghan

Decision - unanimous decision, Jamie takes the role of chair.



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Vice Chair- Ian Tew

Proxy votes - Steven Mason.

Decision - unanimous, Ian takes the role of Vice Chair.

Secretary - Sophie Cox

Proxy votes - Steven Mason.

Decision - unanimous, Sophie takes the role of Secretary.

Treasurer - Current treasurer (James Allsopp) is resigning from the role. Steven Mason put himself forward via the chair.

Decision - unanimous, Steven takes the role of Treasurer.

Handover meeting to be organised between Steven and Stuart.

Committee member to replace committee member James Allsopp - Donna Rawling nominated by chair.

Decision, unanimous - Donna Rawling is now a committee member of GPNA.

3. Singing of the GPNA GDPR agreement

[3. GPNA - GDPR Committee Contact Details Agreement.docx](#)

All committee members asked to sign the GPNA GDPR agreement. This agreement outlines the committee's responsibilities in complying with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Will be signed as soon as possible due to printing issues.

4.Review of GPNA's mission and goals and meeting expectations

The Chair highlighted and discussed GPNA's meeting expectations for all members and all members in attendance signed the meeting expectations agreement.

[4.GPNA Meeting Expectations Agreement.docx](#)

The new Chair led a review of GPNA's mission and goals as stated in the constitution.

[4.5.6.GPNA constitution](#)



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4. Review of the GPNA constitution

The committee reviewed the current constitution, with the aim of changing the method of electing the Chair. Currently, the Chair is elected by the committee at its first meeting. The committee discussed the pros and cons of changing this to a system where the Chair is elected by all GPNA members at the AGM once committee members have been nominated and seconded.

Decision - change constitution for electing chair going forwards.

The committee reviewed and discussed points raised by residents in attendance linked to improving communication.

Discussion around proxy voting when not attending meetings. Discussion around limiting proxy vote to encourage members to attend meetings.

Decision - proxy vote to one per year.

[4.5.6.GPNA constitution](#)

An updated draft will be produced for the next GPNA meeting to be finalised and voted on by committee members.

6. Discussion of committee priorities

Discussion around neighbourhood watch - some individual residents had signed up but currently they are not linked, Susan happy to support residents with this if needed.

Committee reviewed how to improve communication. Some residents don't access social media and the internet.

Susan agreed to post GPNA posters when provided, in notice boards around Great Park as she holds keys for most.

Members suggested asking local shops in town centre to advertise GPNA/survey via posters.

Discussion around organisation of mail drop of GPNA survey. Available online, add QR codes to posters for ease of access. Claire offered to facilitate printing. Susan/Sophie



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happy to deliver leaflets, discussion around committee members delivering in their area of Great Park.

Discussion raised by chair of gaining support of residents through the use of a survey to understand residents priorities for the committee. A survey was shared (below) and discussed to gain feedback from social media and then launch with residents.

[6.GPNA Residents Survey Nov2023.docx](#)

Discussion of sponsoring the leaflet to increase revenue. Query whether this would confuse the message of GPNA and declined as the way forward for now but that this would be considered in the future.

Decision not to include advertising for the moment.

Susan Wannop (NCC) to speak with Victoria Parkin (NCC) and then to contact and work with Jamie Robinson (GPNA Chair) Ian Tew (GPNA Vice Chair) and Steven Mason (GPNA Treasurer) to investigate alternative revenue streams. Castle Ward has a funding budget which includes GPNA areas. NCC to assist GPNA with gaining revenue streams from this budget for the GPNA to improve residents' experiences on Great Park. Susan stated that councillors will also from now usually attend the meetings.

Discussion around this bullet point of the priorities:

- Advocating for residents' interests with local government and Great Park Consortium.

Unanimous decision to add Great Park consortium to this point on gaining funding from NCC and other areas.

Organisation of community events and activities: Susan has events planned throughout the year on Great Park, winter coat appeal, bat walks etc, and is happy for representatives to attend. GPNA to support these events where possible via promotion on social media.



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7. Update from Local councillors regarding their recent meeting with the Consortium

Email from Thom Campion: Thom.Campion@newcastle.gov.uk

Hi Jamie,

Please see the report from Ali and I here

- https://docs.google.com/document/d/17Ng4L09wOfmu_NsHpypoAnCu4HpRARK5O_gYCG7C3HK/edit?usp=sharing

Any questions just let me know.

All the best,

Thom

--

Cllr Thom A Campion

Liberal Democrat Councillor for Castle Ward

Shadow Transport Spokesperson

(He/Him)

Intro

Sorry we can't be with you this evening, it's our pre-council group meeting. We would normally love to attend if you want us to and we're free. We do have certain nights blocked off for Council business already which we can send if required.

Consortium Meeting 23/10/23

Both Cllr Avaei and I met with three members of the NGP Consortium last Monday to discuss the ongoing issues on the Great Park. We were also joined by Lou Sloan (NCC Assistant Director Planning) and Pamela Holmes (NCC Assistant Director Transport) as this meeting had come about from an email sent to Lou asking for the Council to look into what's needed to use legal enforcement on the developers.

During this meeting we highlighted the following areas of concern:

- The dire state of streetlighting
- Lack of maintenance of bushes, trees and green spaces
- The untopped pedestrian and cycleways
- Exposed ironworks on roads
- Unsafe bridge crossings



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- Inadequate street signage
- Speeding
- Poor maintenance, or complete lack, of road markings
- The difficulties communicating issues to the consortium
- A timetable for adoption

We received the following responses and assurances at this meeting:

- A full streetlight audit would take place and repairs would be prioritised (see update posted to website). The consortium also highlighted the importance of residents using the website to report fault lights and that this is monitored daily
- The consortium explained that hedges were cut back twice a year and this needed to be communicated better with residents. They have agreed to join us and staff from NCC to walk the park so we can highlight problem areas
- The untopped cycleways was recognised as a significant issue and the consortium agreed to look at getting this work prioritised
- With regard to exposed ironworks, the consortium explained that most of these were in the new areas around Cell D & A but said they would review this
- The consortium immediately checked the 'live wiring' issue at the bridge crossing between Greenside and GP Centre. This wire was left in error and has been removed. The consortium have said plans are in with NCC for the bridges, I will chase this separately with NCC
- We all agreed speeding was a huge issue. The consortium showed us the new speed info displays which would be going up around the park asap. We did discuss that a lot of the issues are down to the behaviour of drivers themselves and work needed to be done on this
- Road markings are going to be audited asap and refreshed as necessary
- The consortium agreed to quarterly meetings between Councillors, Senior NCC staff and senior Consortium staff. They also agreed to regular monthly meetings with ourselves and NCC officers to review the park and work done. They also committed to getting a single point of contact for Councillors to raise issues to. Finally, the consortium recognised they needed to improve communication with residents and will be looking at how the communities officer role can be improved to help with this
- An adoption timetable has been drawn-up by the Consortium and at present this was as follows: Melbury; Roseden Way, Wagon Way & Spine Road; Greenside and then East Moor Village

Conclusion

It's good to see the consortium finally taking action, but it shouldn't have taken until now and the threat of legal enforcement to get everyone around the table. We will keep pushing the Consortium to make good on their commitments.



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Where residents have issues, although being tagged in Facebook is useful, emailing one of us is always the best way to raise this and we would always encourage residents to do this.

All the best,
Cllr Thom Campion

GPNA Chair's response:

Dear Thom,

Thank you for the update notes on the meeting with the consortium. I will read these out during our meeting shortly.

I am pleased to see that the consortium is finally taking some action on the issues that residents have raised, but I have some concerns about the lack of specific deadlines and accountability measures.

Specifically, I am concerned about the following:

- The adoption timetable is not very specific. It only says that Melbury, Roseden Way, Wagon Way & Spine Road, Greenside, and then East Moor Village will be adopted in that order. It does not give any dates for when this will happen.

-There is no deadline for when the streetlight audit will be completed and repairs will be prioritised.

-There is no deadline for when the exposed ironworks will be reviewed.

-You say that you will keep pushing the consortium to make good on their commitments, but it is not clear how you will hold the consortium accountable if they do not meet their deadlines or commitments.

-You say that the consortium has agreed to quarterly meetings between councillors, senior NCC staff, and senior consortium staff, as well as regular monthly meetings with yourselves and NCC officers to review the park and work done. However, it is not clear how these meetings will be structured or how often they will be held.

I would like to request that you provide us with more specific information on the following:

-When will the adoption timetable be finalised?

-When will the streetlight audit be completed and repairs be prioritised? (According to the developers this has been happening monthly after signing an external contract in August?)



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-When will the exposed ironworks be reviewed?

-How will you hold the consortium accountable if they do not meet their deadlines or commitments?

-How will the quarterly and monthly meetings with the consortium be structured and how often will they be held?

-Who will be / is the single point of contact for councillors to raise issues to? We would like to do this jointly with you.

-How will you prioritise and respond to emails from residents about issues with the consortium?

I was also under the impression that Roseden way was being topped prior to December?

We would also like to know what the Council is doing to ensure that the bus routes are ready for adoption by December and to open up the tender process for additional bus services.

I appreciate your efforts to address these issues and will reiterate that social media is useful but that you prefer emails from residents.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Jamie Robinson
Chair GPNA

A Discussion around the bus service on Great Park then took place.

Susan discussed council highways- buses can operate on a private road, can work with operators to extend services into other parts of Great Park and provide infrastructure.

Committee discussion began from Neil Collington stating that the Consortium are obliged to provide a bus service 300m – 400m of a completed house. Is the consortium willing to provide a limited bus service through the strikes if they are still subsidising the Q3 service?

Residents brought up mis-selling of houses due to being shown plans of bus stops and roads with bollards to prevent through traffic on Roseden Way.



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Chair discussed the £818k CIL funding allocated to change Great Park, park and ride car park to a drop off point for schools. Susan disagreed that there is no CIL money being spent on Great Park.

Chair highlighted CIL expenditure quoted from the NCC website/correspondence with Catherine McKinnell stated that this was the case and questioned why this much money was being spent making a car park into a car park when infrastructure money could be being utilised to ensure this was in place on Great Park instead.

[Email Thread Catherine McKinnell](#)

[Infrastructure-Funding-Statement-2022-12.pdf](#)

Susan will clarify as she was told by 'Matthew' that this is not the case.

Donna Rawling also queried the lack of parklands councillor involvement at the AGM. Susan will ask representative to attend next meeting. Jamie Robinson also highlighted that he had asked this question at the ward meeting earlier this week, but that he had been told they had been made aware at short notice which is the reason for their nonattendance to the AGM. Jamie highlighted that this had been published on social media in advance of the meeting which councillors had access to see.

Donna requested minutes from Parklands councillors and meeting with developers.

Clarification was provided to residents that lights and issues need to be reported on the GPMC website and that lights were being audited monthly. Jamie Robinson pointed out that this had been the promise to residents since July 2023 via the GPMC website lights update to residents and yet no audit or maintenance had been sighted by residents and that this was not acceptable.

Residents and committee members raised safety concerns - lack of lights, especially with the indefinite bus strike, darker nights, and poor street junction / traffic road markings: i.e., the only access to the metro is via paths with no lighting at all bridge/Brunton Lane.

8. Next steps

Decision - Committee agreed to 3, 3 monthly meetings - January, April and July, dates TBC.



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Develop a work plan based on the top 3 priorities from the resident's survey once launched and feedback had been gained.

The committee voted to enable the Chair and Vice Chair to elect subcommittee groups following this meeting and prior to the next meeting if required to act on areas identified from resident feedback.

Decision - members happy for chair and vice chair to develop sub committees prior to other meetings.

9. Any other business (AOB)

Susan clarified her position to continue to attend GPNA meetings.

Committee members agreed that this should continue.

Susan to ask councillors from all wards to attend future GPNA meetings.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 20:12.

Chair thanked committee members and residents for their attendance.

Minutes submitted by: Sophie Cox

Date: 30.10.2023

Minutes approved by: J Robinson

Date: 10.11.2023