

Minutes of the meeting of the Craigmillar and Blackhall Community Council on 10 February 2014 in Stewart's Melville College Dining Hall

Present: Eddie Thorn (Chair), Ian Hewitt (Vice Chair), Maureen Kane, Alan Denham, Margaret Richardson, Jim Bishop, George Millar, Rupert Lezemore, Chris Grant (Police Scotland), Cllr Barrie, Cllr Bagshaw, Cllr Hinds.

Apologies : Mark Lazarowicz (MP), Cllr Iain White, Mike Crockart MP, Colin Keir MSP

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Minutes of the meeting of 9 December 2013 were approved.

New member of CBCC: It was agreed that Rupert Lezemore from Craigmillar Hill Neighbourhood Watch would be co-opted onto the Community Council.

Police Report: Chris Grant reported on recent crime statistics for the community area. He stressed that unsecured items and premises remained the particular focus, with recent incidents including thefts from unattended or unsecured cycles, house and shed break ins. Maureen Kane enquired about bike tagging and marking and Police Scotland agreed to follow up with further details of any local initiatives.

Chair's Report: Eddie Thorn read out a recent letter from Rosie Watt from Cairn Housing on the recent news that the retirement homes were staying open. There would be further public consultation on the priority parking scheme for Telford Road and engagement with CBCC on impacts for our community area. Eddie also made an appeal for the recruitment of new members.

Treasurer's Report: Alan Denham reported a 19p increase in the CBCC bank balance to £1626.76.

Planning: Alan Denham updated on a number of applications of relevant to the Community Council, including the CBCC response on the Groathill Road South flats and the Local Development Plan briefing on 18 February. Cllr Hinds updated on the junction at Queensferry Road and Craigmillar Crescent where a yellow box was not deemed by the CEC to be feasible. There was also discussion on public parking at Blackhall Medical Centre, the tender for the new operators of the 13 bus route and a new Stagecoach service soon to start running connecting Queensferry Road to the city centre and South Queensferry.

Councillors' Reports:

Cllr Barrie advised that the council budget was out this week and had new, compromised proposals on investing in police, kinship carers and S1 and S2 class sizes.

Cllr Bagshaw updated on the pending Dunedin House planning decision.

Cllr Hinds advised on budget support her party had secured for the new Environmental Wardens, utilities inspectors, subsidising local bus services and cycling. Cllr Hinds also updated

on the recent approval of the 20mph citywide speed limit through the local transport strategy.

Matters Arising:

Potholes: Margaret Richardson praised the CEC for speedy remediation of potholes on Orchard Brae Avenue.

Street lights: George Millar updated on the ineffective lights on Craigeleith Road and whether LEDs would be available as alternatives.

CBCC Website : It was agreed to accept the offer from Dave Halbert to manage the Community Council website for a monthly payment of £24 subject to CBCC having complete editorial control, removal of the existing sponsorship and review of the arrangement 8 months hence.

EACC Representation: It was agreed that George Millar represent the Community Council.

Business:

The Community Council Plan paper submitted by Eddie Thorn was carried forward to the March meeting.

Ian Hewitt raised the planning application on Groathill Road South and added that he was seeking out views of the residents in the immediate vicinity.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Craigeleith and Blackhall Community Council will be held in the Dining Hall of Stewart's Melville College on Monday 10 March 2014 at 7.30pm.