

Minutes of the Meeting of the Craigleith and Blackhall Community Council held in Stewart's Melville College Dining Room on Monday 11 February 2013 at 7.30pm

Present: Eddie Thorn (Chair), Ian Hewitt (Vice-Chair), Maureen Kane (Sec), Alan Denham (Treasurer, John Adams, Sally McKenzie, Alasdair Watson, Margaret Richardson, Andrew Niven, Claire Lynch, Dave Halbert, John Young, Neil Watt, Cllr Bagshaw, Cllr Barrie, Cllr Hinds.

Guest: Jody Mackay.

Apologies: Alistair Nairn, Cllr Whyte, Mark Lazarowicz MP.

Petitions Committee: Jody Mackay explained the purpose and procedures of the Petitions Committee which was recently set up by CEC. Several members expressed reservations about the need for the committee, the frequency of applications and requested clarification on the wording of petitions.

Chair's Report: Eddie Thorn thanked Neil Watt for his contribution to the EH4 magazine and the CC newsletter.

Secretary's Report: Maureen Kane reminded the committee that a representative from the CEC traffic department would attend the next meeting to discuss the proposed crossing on Queensferry Rd. Members were informed of all other matters by email.

CEC report: Councillors explained the key point in the recent budget; it was also reported that two classrooms in Blackhall Primary would be refurbished. Signs displaying historic Blackhall were rejected by the Council. Ian Hewitt suggested that Cllr Barrie investigate any section 75 agreements relating to new housing as it may have been overlooked. The Jet Wash issue will go to the Scottish Government reporter. The outcome of the Priority Parking (PP) was announced; residents in most of the Craigleith area indicated a preference for PP. Residents in Blinkbonny Rd and Blinkbonny Ave also voted in favour of PP, however, residents in Blinkbonny

Gds voted against PP. John Young asked Cllr Hinds if there was a possibility that PP would take place in Blinkbonny Rd and Blinkbonny Ave and not Blinkbonny Gds and Cllr Hinds said that was possible. Given that the majority of responses rejected PP, CC accepted the outcome. John Young raised the issue of flooding as cars parked over the gullies prevented cleaning which contributed to flooding. Ian Hewitt felt that part of the parking problem stemmed from parents and pupils of Stewart's Melville. Andrew Niven and Claire Lynch explained that pupils were expected to show consideration to the local residents and will raise the matter with the school.

Planning and Treasurer's Report: Alan Denham reported a budget of £1562.54. He also reported on several other planning issues. (see Appendix 1)

Matters Arising Planning Policy: Discussion took place regarding the problem which arises when the closing date for a controversial planning application precedes a Community Council meeting. Dave Halbert thought that in cases where planning was disputed, the applicant should be consulted and if possible a request to delay the closing date for the planning permission should be sought. Cllr Bagshaw pointed out that delaying the date was not possible. General approval was given. Adoption of the policy was proposed by Eddie Thorn and seconded by Ian Hewitt.

Notice boards: Ian Hewitt reported that Sainsburys will still not shift the board. Dave Halbert suggested that the notice boards could be partially used by the public as at present the boards were underused.

Business Church Donation: (Ian Hewitt chaired at this point due to conflict of interest) The hall in Blackhall St Columba's Church was used for the Inter-school debate. Ian Hewitt proposed a fee of £40 and Alan Denham seconded the proposal. Dave Halbert disapproved strongly and wanted to donate £75. Alan Denham will forward the cheque.

Dog Fouling: Maureen Kane pointed out that Orchard Park North was blighted by dog fouling. Cllr Hinds will investigate way to tackle the problem.

New CC Scheme: The committee was in agreement with the new scheme. Maureen Kane will forward supportive comment to Eileen Hewitt.

AOCB Queensferry Rd: Alan Denham raised several issues about Queensferry Rd. He was concerned that cars were parked on the pavement outside the undertakers on Queensferry Rd nr Maidencraig Court. Cllr Hinds pointed out that cars not causing an obstruction cannot be towed away, however, new government legislation should address this problem. Alan Denham also said that it was difficult to cross the road due to the volume of traffic. Cllr Hinds suggested that he comment on the consultation running at present and Dave Halbert felt that the CC should also comment. Gas works were causing considerable congestion and the paint on the yellow boxes was disappearing. John Young pointed out that this was also the case with the centre white lines on the road between Craigeleith Drive and the Holiday Inn junction. Cllr Hinds will report the problem.

Elections; Dave Halbert pointed out that CC elections were due to be held in September and this was posted on the website. Nigel Bagshaw asked the Chair how this would be advertised. Dave Halbert said that this had been discussed at the recent EACC meeting and adverts would be posted. Eddie Thorn asked CC members to distribute leaflets.

The next meeting of the CBCC will take place on Monday 11 March in Stewart's Melville College Dining Room at 7.30pm.