

Minute of meeting 8 December 2014 Stewart Melville College Dining Hall

Present: Eddie Thorn, Ian Hewitt, Alan Denham, Margaret Richardson, Jim Bishop, Rupert Lezemore, James McLennan, Councillors, Nigel Bagshaw, Gavin Barrie, Lesley Hinds.

Also present:

Dave Halbert, PC Ian Collins, Ross McElhinney, Robert Pelosi

Apologies: George Millar, Maureen Kane, Neil Watt, Councillor Iain Whyte, Mark Lazarwicz MP

Chairman and Secretary - following Eddie Thorn's intention to stand down as Chairman after 7 years, Councillor Gavin Barrie thanked him for his efforts and public service. These sentiments were endorsed by the Community Council. Ian Hewitt and Rupert Lezemore were elected unopposed as new Chairman and Secretary respectively.

Previous Minutes - The minutes of 10 November 2014 were approved by Ian Hewitt and seconded by James McLennan.

Police Report

- PC Collins highlighted the new reduced drink/drive limit and the measures Police Scotland are taking, including stopping vehicles, to publicise the message. Recent statistics locally showed more break-ins than normal, including Silverknowes, Maidencraig and Craigleath areas. House breakers are looking for bikes / motor bikes and target house where there are bike racks or trailers on cars outside. Also seeking high value items which can be easily stolen. An increase of break-ins was not unusual nearing Christmas. There was also evidence locally of robbery of mobile phones from younger people.

- Mr Pelosi commented on the theft of a motor bike from Maidencraig Crescent. He had also noted the suspicious interest in parked cars from strangers in the area. PC Collins confirmed that where appropriate photographs of such activity is useful, but such people should not be followed. After discussion it was agreed that Councillor Hinds would investigate whether the mobile CCTV van could be used in the area to assist in minimising potential criminal activity.

- Alan Denham commented on the recent spate of graffiti in Hillpark Way, the first in 40 years - residents were pleased in the clean up by the City Council. He raised the continuing problem of speeding on Queensferry Road on the uphill section out of Blackhall Dip.

- Mr McElhinney also raised the problem of speeding at Ravelston Park on Craigcrook Road used by the nursery and small children. Councillor Hinds said that the proposals for 20 mph speed limits would be going to the Transport and Environment Committee in January following consultation.

- The problem of vehicle parking on the footpath on Telford Road was also noted in the discussion. The City Councillors had also identified it as a problem and in the short term commercial vehicles would be encouraged to park on the carriageway. Linked to the controlled parking measures on Telford Drive area, these would be extended to Telford Road address the problem.

Chairman and Secretary Reports - none

Treasurer and Planning Report - Alan Denham reported that the CBCC account stood at £1503.50 after expenditure in this financial year to date of £699.92. There was little of current or new planning interest. He commented on the disappointing decision of the Council to approve an internally illuminated advertisement hoarding on Telford Road. Rupert Lezermore asked about progress on the PAN and planning applications at the Royal Victoria Hospital - there was at this stage nothing further to report.

CEC Councillors' Report

- CEC councillors have asked officials to look at the issue of pedestrian safety at the junction of Queensferry Road and Craigmor Road.
- Mr McElhinney asked the Councillors about the role out of the new recycling arrangements for the area west of Strachan Road. Councillor Hinds would look into it.
- Rupert Lezermore asked about the process for establishing a zebra crossing near Flora Stephenson's Primary School. Number of people crossing the junction, accidents etc resulted in a score and the priority for a crossing. There was a recollection that a Traffic Order had been prepared about 2 years ago for a new crossing on Crewe Road South.
- Ian Hewitt asked about the process for adjusting the CC boundaries.

Business:

- CBBC Website - following a problem with the web site, Dave Halbert had addressed it - although he was of the view that the CC web site technology is dating and would benefit from some investment and updating.
- Orchard Park - following an e-mail from a member of the public about Orchard Park, there was disquiet about the the poor standard of maintenance of the recent capital investment. It was noted that this was also part of a much wider problem in the City. Councillor Barrie had sought information from officials. It was agreed to return to the subject in February ahead of the growing season. Councillor Hinds confirmed that grass cutting of public spaces would continue, contrary to press reports.

AOCB: Rupert Lezermore raised the issue of CC membership and its profile. Agreed that this matter would discussed at a future meeting.

Next meeting: 12 January 2015 in Stewart Melville College Dining Hall