

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting Monday 21 May 2018 including Annual General Meeting 2018

Held in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall

Present : Emma Phillips (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary/Treasurer), Rupert Lezemore, Martin Riddell, Claudio Romero, Peter May, Paul Moran, Michael Cockburn, Inverleith Ward Councillors Gavin Barrie, Max Mitchell, Hal Osler, Iain Whyte, Kenneth Wright (Drumbrae Community Council)

In attendance PC Holly Matheson, PC Neville Richardson, and four others

Apologies : James MacLennan, Deidre Brock MP, Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP.

Annual General Meeting 2018

Minutes of AGM 2017 - minutes approved; proposed by Peter May

Annual Report - the Chair and Secretary presented a joint report covering :-
traffic, transport and safety issues, including local bus services;
support for the Blackhall Dip Christmas event by funding the Christmas tree, assisting Blackhall School parent's association;
on controversial planning applications supporting local residents and where appropriate submitting an objection to the City Council - in the case of the proposed Hillhouse Road Woods Care Home over 50 residents attended a meeting, showing strong opposition at the meeting to the proposal;
crime and anti-social behaviour;
use of social media to raise the profile of the Community Council

Annual Accounts - the Treasurer said that expenditure had exceeded income by £97.43 - income was £691.13 and expenditure £788.56. The main items of expenditure were insurance, an election hustings for local elections - nearly £300, support for Blackhall Dip Christmas event by paying for Christmas tree - £250, and room hire for Community Council meetings - nearly £100. The balance to be carried forward to 2018/19 was £862.09. The Treasurer reported the accounts had been audited ahead of the meeting. The meeting agreed to approve the accounts for 2017/18.

Office Bearers - the meeting agreed to elect the following :-

Councillor Gavin Barrie took the chair briefly to oversee the election of the Chair - Emma Phillips - proposed by Martin Riddell and seconded by Claudio Romero

Vice-chair - Rupert Lezemore - proposed by Emma Phillips and seconded by Martin Riddell

Secretary - Alan Denham - proposed by Emma Phillips and seconded by Rupert Lezemore

Treasurer - Martin Riddell - proposed by Emma Phillips and seconded by Claudio Romero

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Police Scotland Report - PCs Holly Matheson and Neville Richardson reported that in the previous 4 weeks they had dealt with parking on pavements both via a letter drop and foot patrols, monitored red light jumping in Blackhall Dip, issues at McDonalds. Anti-social behaviour in the Maidencraig Crescent area had been a problem including drunk youths who had used Ravelston Woods to consume alcohol. The identity of the children from outside the Community Council area was now known to the police, making it easier to deal with future problems. Logs in Ravelston Woods used as a congregating point had been removed by the police. It was noted that local children had been chased away from the Woods by the drinking youths.

Martin Riddell commented that the police presence had made a significant difference in Maidencraig Crescent. He also welcomed the installation of the CCTV camera. Kenneth Wright was however concerned about the transfer of the camera from Drumbrae shops, where there were problems, to Maidencraig Crescent. There was a wider discussion about CCTV cameras operated by the City Council. The City Councillors explained that there was a variety of CCTV systems which were not all compatible and some of which can no longer be repaired - the City Council is currently looking at upgrading and modernising the CCTV system.

Minutes of 16 April 2018 meeting - approved

Chair Report - the Chair had been approached by parents following the recent incident involving a vigilante group outside Blackhall Primary School. She said that parents had now received a letter from the City Council. In discussion there was disappointment that the police had not been involved in the first instance. The Chair thanked the School Head for safeguarding the interests of the children.

The Community Council had a stall at the recent Eco Fair at Blackhall Primary School. For the stall at Blackhall Sports Day it was recommended that Police Scotland should also be present.

Other Community Council matters - the Secretary raised the following matters :-

Petition to the City Council from a local resident regarding traffic on Strachan Road and Craigcrook Road - it was agreed to include the petition on the CC web site and on social media but without comment. It generated a wider discussion on the current consideration of changes to the Barnton and Drumabrae junctions on Queensferry Road and need for action to be extended to the Blackhall junctions. The City Councillors were encouraged to address this matter.

Web site - the recent comment was noted but within the limited resources available there was overall satisfaction with the web site.

GDPR Regulations - the Secretary reported that the Community Council had received a 12 page paper from the City Council in order to meet the terms of the regulations. In discussion there was some uncertainty of the extent to which the regulations impacted on community council business. It was also suggested that it would no longer be appropriate to include the names of members of the public in meeting minutes.

City Councillor Reports

Max Mitchell reported that following a survey of footfall and traffic volumes, Orchard Road did not qualify for a refuge island.

Hal Osler was disappointed that her proposal for a speed camera in Blackhall Dip had not been approved - local community police were supportive but it was not supported by other parts of Police Scotland. She also commented that major water works on Crewe Road South near the Western General Hospital would be commencing shortly, resulting in major traffic delays at times.

Other matters raised - the proposal by the City Council to ban A-boards was welcomed - Councillors were also encouraged to remove other unnecessary clutter.

Hedges and trees were restricting the width of pavements in parts of Blackhall, affecting sight lines and concealing traffic lights. The Community Council agreed to give the problem some publicity through the web site and social media.

Graffiti on South Groathill Avenue - although a resident had written to the City Council regarding the problem, she had received no reply. City councillors agreed to follow-up the matter. The difficulties of contacting City Council by phone was also noted.

Next meeting - Monday 18 June 2018 in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall at 7.30pm

Alan Denham
Secretary
25 May 2018