

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting Monday 18 February 2019

Held in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall

Present : Emma Phillips (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Martin Riddell (Treasurer), Rupert Lezmore, Peter May, Fergus Henderson, James McClellan, Michael Cockburn; Paul Moran. Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Gavin Barrie and Max Mitchell. PC Holly Matheson and PC Laura Addison (Police Scotland). Christine Jardine MP. In attendance 6 residents from the local community.

Apologies : Claudia Romero, Councillor Iain Whyte, Deidre Brock MP.

Minutes of 21 January meeting - approved.

Matters arising from the January meeting.

Community Council scheme - comments still to be submitted.

20 mph policy - comments submitted and available on Community Council web site.

Graffiti - Councillor Hal Osler had been in touch with Mactaggart and Mickel, the owners of the corner site at Craigcrook Road and Queensferry Road adjacent to the BT Telephone Exchange and as a first step the site is to be tidied, grass cut (this took place 25 February) and a new fence to be constructed.

Response to the City Council's budget submitted - particular concerns about the proposal to charge for the use of parks for activities.

Bench at Abingers - despite various e-mails, Councillor Hal Osler had been unable to identify where the responsibility lies in the Council for public benches.

Police Scotland Report - PC Holly Matheson introduced PC Laura Addison, the new community police officer. PC Matheson reported on:-

- speed checks had been held, including Blackhall Dip;
- foot patrols - 35 carried out last month;
- house break-in, including theft of bicycles and car from Carfrae Grove - during discussion it was noted that there had also been thefts from houses in the Barnton area at about the same time;
- Stewart Melville's College area - parking continues to be monitored as residents' drives are being blocked by parents dropping off pupils;

PC Laura Addison said that she had moved from Corstorphine to Drylaw. Anti-social behaviour patrols had taken place in Ravelston Woods but there were no young people present.

Week beginning 18 February was National Hate Crime week and both PCs were to be present at Sainsbury's Blackhall on 19 February.

She reported on the problem with bogus callers from outwith the Craigleith/Blackhall area purporting to be window cleaners. Councillor Gavin Barrie said that genuine window cleaners are licensed by the City Council.

Chair Report - Emma Phillips (Chair) reported on the Community Council scheme

Other Community Council Matters

Alan Denham (Secretary) reported on the review of the Edinburgh Local Development Plan - to be called Edinburgh Cityplan 2030 - after attending a meeting at Blackhall Library,

also on 18 February. It would be important for the local community to participate as the Cityplan 2030 will set the policy context for determining planning applications in future years, on sites such as Hillhouse Road Woods and the Craiggrook Road horse field. Baillie Signs, Queensferry Road - a planning application had been submitted for an industrial structure unrelated to the residential character of the area and it had generated considerable concern from local residents in the Maidencraig Crescent area. It was agreed that the Community Council should support the residents and also submit an objection.

Hillhouse Road Woods Care Home planning application - no decision yet. (Decision subsequently issued on 23 February)

Telford Road - the lane changes at the junctions with Groathill Road North and Groathill Avenue, introduced to reduce traffic accidents, had generated local concerns. Councillor Hal Osler reported that there was to be an onsite meeting on 19 February. The changes had resulted in queuing traffic on Telford Road, particularly at peak periods, making it difficult for cars to exit Forthview Terrace and Drylaw Avenue.

Queensferry Road traffic pollution - following the recent press reports, the pollution issues were raised in discussion.

Councillor Reports - Councillor Hal Osler reported on the parking and traffic problems in the Stewart Melville's College area, arising from parents dropping off and picking up pupils. Problems included parking on double yellow lines, reversing at pedestrian lights. The problems had become problematic for local residents and Lothian Buses.

Councillor Max Mitchell updated on grit bins.

AOCB

Tourist tax - Rupert Lezemoore was concerned that the tourist tax is intended to support the tourist industry rather than the wider community which can experience some of the disbenefits of tourism. The City Councillors said that moneys from the tourist tax would be ring fenced for, say, additional policing and cleansing, but this would enable other funds to be released for use elsewhere in the city.

Fireworks - Rupert Lezemoore asked whether there were plans to centralise firework displays. In discussion it was noted that there is no legislation to manage fireworks but the Scottish Government is currently consulting on the matter.

Orchard Park trees - some of the recent pruning, undertaken for safety reasons, appeared brutal but the trees had been cut back to a position where they will regrow. Councillor Max Mitchell said that there was a "sponsor a tree" scheme.

Next Community Council meeting - Monday 18 March 2019 in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall at 7.30pm

Alan Denham
Secretary
26 February 2019