

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting Monday 20 May 2019

Held in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall

Present : Emma Phillips (Chair), Rupert Lezemore (Vice Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Martin Riddell (Treasurer), Claudia Romero, Peter May, Michael Cockburn; Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler and Max Mitchell; PC Holly Matheson (Police Scotland). In attendance : 4 residents from the local community.

Apologies : James McClellan, Councillor Gavin Barrie.

Minutes of 15 April meeting - approved.

Matters arising from 15 April meeting:-

Ravelston Park CCTV - no update to report

Craigleith Shopping Centre gates - no update to report - Secretary agreed to e-mail Councillor Iain Whyte.

Groathill Road South - despite the poor standard of repair ie not replacing the original setts, Councillor Hal Osler reported that Scottish Water considered that they had fulfilled their requirement to reinstate the road. A more general discussion expressed concern that utility companies do not always fulfil their statutory responsibility for road reinstatement in a satisfactory way, aggravating the poor standard of roads in Edinburgh.

Groathill Depot, South Groathill Road - Councillor Osler said that ownership checks confirmed that the site is owned by the City Council. Possible that in the longer term the site could be disposed of by the City Council for housing.

20 mph monitoring - noted that Craigcrook Road near Ravelston Park and Strachan Road had been included in the monitoring. PC Matheson said that she would have access to the detailed results when available.

Police Scotland Report - PC Holly Matheson reported on :-

Horses - following issues and problems with horse walking on Corstorphine Hill, she had arranged a local event with residents from the Hillpark area west of Craigcrook Road. It was well attended. During discussion it emerged that horses were also accessing Ravelston Golf Course via a broken fence near Blackhall Primary School.

Hillpark area - an individual selling at the doors in the area was charged with peddling. PC Matheson said there was no obligation to purchase and elderly neighbours should be alerted to the possibility of such visits with unsolicited selling.

Ravelston Woods - Police Scotland are carrying out frequent visits to minimise anti-social behaviour. Martin Riddell thanked Police Scotland for their positive work in the local area.

Bicycle thefts had calmed down

20 mph speed limit - an initiative to reinforce the need for 20 mph is to be carried out on selected streets - suggestion streets at the meeting include Craigcrook Road, Strachan Road and Orchard Road.

Police Scotland had regular events in the Stockbridge area.

Chair Report - Emma Phillips reported on the following :-

Blackhall Dip Post Office - the retention of the Post Office in the Dip was welcome - it will shortly move to the nearby LateStore shop. Agreed to respond to the Post Office consultation accordingly.

Emma Phillips referred to the Blackhall Primary School ParkSmart initiative. Its purpose is to discourage parking and dropping off in front of the school and to relocate the dropping off points to the Ravelston Park area and the horse field on Craigcrook Road - it is also seen as a way of encouraging the children to walk further. It had been agreed by the Headteacher with City Council officials, but not agreed with Police Scotland. However during discussion there was concern the new areas had been identified without adequate regard to existing residents including access to their houses.

New housing at Groathill Road South - she was concerned about new fencing extending beyond the site boundary and on to the adjacent path / cycleway. Martin Riddell also expressed concern about the impact on the other path /cycle way. Councillor Max Mitchell agreed to look into the matter.

Blackhall Community Trust will learn about funding this week .

Other Community Council Matters - Alan Denham (Secretary) reported on the following :-

Blackhall Dip planters - a local resident was disappointed at the poor maintenance of the planters installed as part of the footpath improvements about 8 years ago. Councillor Hal Osler said that with reduced City Council budgets, the Parks budget had been progressively reduced over the years and such maintenance is not likely to be a priority when viewed against competing priorities. The Secretary said that he would explore with the North West Office whether there was a way round the problem.

Edinburgh Bus Users Group - Alan Denham with James McLennan had attended the first meeting of the Edinburgh Users Group. He reported back that much of the discussion at the meeting was critical of the new 100 seater buses on services 11 and 16 and the absence of adequate wheel chair and buggy space. There had been no opportunity to discuss Queensferry Road corridor services but Councillor Hal Osler said that these services were monitored regularly by Lothian Buses. Other changes proposed by the City Council including upgrading of the city centre streets, the introduction of a low emission zone and proposed bus lanes on Queensferry Road were noted - for the time being.

NHS GP Boundary alterations at Summerside and Cramond Surgeries were noted.

Councillor Reports - Councillor Hal Osler said that local residents had been in touch about the increase in noise and litter at McDonald's.

AMA new housing development - she said that there was concern about the infilling of the ledge ahead of construction, making it difficult for dogs and children to be rescued from the deep water. Councillor Iain Whyte is looking into the matter.

At the nearby Ravelston Park dog fouling in the area used by children was referred to. It emerged that many bins have been removed by officials leading to complaints to local Councillors.

Councillor Max Mitchell said that the relaxed grass policy (ie cut once a year) has lead to complaints at Orchard Park and the unsatisfactory level of maintenance. The policy reflects the cutbacks on the Parks budget.

Garden bin collection - it is understood the charge may be scrapped.

Next Community Council meeting, including annual general meeting -
Monday 17 June 2019 in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall at 7.30pm

Alan Denham
Secretary
21 May 2019