

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting Monday 17 February 2020 - Held online via Zoom

Present : Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Martin Riddell (Treasurer), Duncan Osler, Grant Roger, Michael Cockburn, Darlene Jeffrey, Paul Moran; Inverleith Ward Councillor - Hal Osler.

Note - with an absence of 4 months since last meeting due to the Coronavirus lockdown, the online Zoom meeting was held at short notice to establish the feasibility of this way of meeting. The main agenda items were:-

2030 Plan and repurposing road space including Queensferry Road with bus lanes
Changes to childcare

Crime and anti-social behaviour in Maidencraig Crescent area and Ravelston Woods
Grass cutting on Council owned sites

Choices for City Plan 2030 - Councillor Osler said that the current focus was on Spaces for People and special Scottish Government funding for active travel plans to address the increase in cycling and the need for greater social distancing. The consultation on Spaces for People concludes on 29 June and it was agreed that the Community Council would consider the matter further at the next meeting.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour - crime levels are starting to creep up. Martin Riddell noted the increase in the Maidencraig Crescent area with evidence of attempted break-ins. Additionally anti-social behaviour was occurring in Ravelston Woods. Councillor Osler undertook to inform the new north west Edinburgh community police group.

Child Care Facilities - Councillor Osler said that Edinburgh Council is trying to get an understanding of what is possible, and what can be relaxed. They are seeking flexibility from the Scottish Government with a view to moving closer to European social distancing standards. In terms of possible additional alternative accommodation in Blackhall, there are few alternatives available. In discussion it was noted that it was difficult to get the economy up and running if parents are expected to do home schooling. Measures to protect employment will be a major challenge for both Scotland and the UK.

Grass Cutting - there had been little grass cutting over the last 3 months as Parks staff had been redeployed during the lockdown. Grass cutting was recommencing, but it could take some time to catch up with the back log.

AOCB - Finances - Martin Riddell, Secretary, updated the Community Council with late receipt of grant of £790.64 for 2019-20 and payment of cheques to cover insurance and the use of the meeting room at Blackhall St Columba's Church.

Future meeting location - Michael Cockburn said that the Church was taking booking requests for meetings. It was agreed that dates for physical meetings should be arranged but in the short, and even the medium, term online Zoom meetings were likely to provide the preferred way of meeting to discuss issues until the pandemic outlook was clearer.

Next meeting - Monday 20 July at 7.30 pm online Zoom meeting

Alan Denham, Secretary, 21 June 2020

