

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

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

Present - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Martin Riddell (Treasurer), Duncan Osler, Grant Roger, Jim McLennan, Darlene Jeffrey, Michael Cockburn, Susie Ross; Inverleith Ward Councillors - Hal Osler, Gavin Barrie, Max Mitchell.

Apologies - there were no apologies

Police Report - due to annual leave Police Scotland was not able to provide a written report, but welcomed notification of any concerns. The meeting said that there had been attempted break-ins of garages and houses in daylight by youths on Craigcrook Road opposite Ravelston Park. Also attempted break-in of garages and cars in Gardner Road. Not certain whether there is an increase in attempted break-ins. There was also anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Maidencraig Crescent by drunken youths where residents have not heard anything about earlier ASB issues in July. An arrest warrant is out for an individual following an attempted break-in earlier in the year.

Minutes of 20 July meeting - approved. Noted that the problems with the Community Council web site had been resolved.

Spaces for People - Queensferry Road bus lanes - Councillor Hal Osler said that moneys were available, and although it was not considered in the Mobility Plan, plans for bus lanes could be coming back. While there were a number of positives ie increase and improvement to bus services, these would need to be offset by negative implications eg rat running.

Comely Bank Roundabout Scheme for cyclists - this is proceeding and will be considered by the Policy and Sustainability Committee in September. It will provide a painted white line solution without wands.

Queensferry Road - speeding - concern was expressed at the excessive and dangerous speed of some traffic on the section between Telford Road and Quality Street junctions, particularly during the quieter night time period. The meeting agreed to notify Police Scotland of the concerns.

Community Council Meetings - the City Council's recommendation that community council meetings should continue to be held online until at least the end of the year, in order to minimise the spread of the virus, was noted.

AGM - following discussion, it was agreed that the AGM should be held alongside in October, alongside the regular monthly meeting.

Wasp Nests, Ravelston Woods - there were recent reports of severe stinging from aggressive wasps at a number of locations in Ravelston Woods affecting adults, children and animals and requiring treatment at A&E and for animals at the vet. A Pest Control Officer from the North West Locality Office is to investigate on Wednesday 19 August.

City Councillor Reports - issues raised by the 3 councillors were:-

Flooding and drains - as well as localised issues arising from blocked gully drains, the storm overnight on 11 August had resulted in significant local flooding problems in the area including Craigeleith Road where a manhole cover had blown off and caused damage to properties; flooding at March Road and Blackhall Dip. There were discussions between Scottish Water and the Council on how the problems should be resolved.

Speeding

Internet - breakdown in internet service by Virgin Media

Face coverings on buses not being enforced by Lothian Buses

Schools - at the 11th hour some children still did not know at which school they would be attending

Blackhall Library closure - report is to go to the September meeting of the Policy and Sustainability Committee

Hedge Cutting - problems of restricted pavement width were noted because of overgrown hedges. One local problem had been resolved at Craigeleith Road following hedge cutting.

Road Works by Utilities - they were now catching up with the backlog following lockdown, resulting in a number of separate works, particularly in Stockbridge, creating local problems and leading to traffic delays. The City Council can do little to control where and when such works take place.

Cost comparisons on Education - next full Council meeting is to consider a report on comparisons with other Scottish cities. Disappointing terminology - prefer to use the term 'investment in children' rather than 'cost of educating' them.

AOCB - parking near corners - concern was raised about problem parking on or close to corners leading to poor sight lines. Junction of Jeffrey Avenue and Craigcrook Road was quoted as an example. The problem was not covered in the recent Parking Review. Even if double yellow lines were introduced, there would be little scope for enforcement in Blackhall. Preferred solution should be persuasion leading to the encouragement of better habits and more considerate parking.

Next meeting - at 7.30 pm on Monday 21 September 2020 to be held online via Zoom

Alan Denham
Secretary
18 August 2020