

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting Monday 20 September 2021 **- held online using Teams**

Present - Stuart Pinkerton (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Martin Riddell (Treasurer), Roger, Darlene Jeffrey, Susie Ross, Duncan Osler, Paul Moran, Michael Cockburn; Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Gavin Barrie, Max Mitchell; four members of the local community

Apologies - Jim McLennan

Minutes of 16 August 2021 meeting - approved subject to one minor change.

Police Report - PC Roslin Milne reported on the positive trends on a range of crimes in north west Edinburgh over the last 5 years - hate crime down 1%, anti social behaviour down 27% and house break-ins down 56%. Police Scotland were seeking to address the issue of shoplifting in Craigleith Shopping Centre including working with schools. A series of fires over the weekend had diverted attention from other current issues.

In discussion the following were raised :- shed break-ins on Strachan Road - PC Milne would visit householders in the area;

Anti social behaviour - there had been a recent problem of anti social behaviour in Craigleith Hill Avenue resulting in damage to cars. It appeared there was an increase in ASB across the city. Police Scotland try to attend all reports of ASB where resources permit. PC Milne recommended that 999 calls are made if the problems were ongoing, otherwise 101, as it is important that police know about the issue and it is recorded; Fires and other suspicious activity - please report to Police Scotland.

PC Milne was moving on in Police Scotland - she was thanked for her contributions.

Community Council matters :-

Ravelston Park - land subject to Community Transfer Asset procedures and the City Council's plans to adjust the Fields in Trust protection - the Ward Councillors were not able to provide an update on progress. A representative from Blackhall Community Trust (BCT) said that matters were progressing but very slowly. Next step for BCT is to put funding in place for the new nursery building. She agreed to make a presentation when a planning application is submitted.

Craigcrook Road speeding - Councillor Hal Osler reported that the speed of traffic on Craigcrook Road in March/April 2021 was 20.7mph between Jeffrey Ave and Keith Terrace but between Strachan Road and Queensferry Road was 26.7mph which Council staff acknowledge will require speed reduction measures to be put in place. She also said that there is still an outstanding request to get the pedestrian crossing repainted as it needs to stand out better as it is regularly being breached by vehicles. Also under the spaces for people measures for schools there was a possible section for Blackhall Primary School including the investigation of a segregated cycle lane on Craigcrook Rd. There are still issues on the road to the school with overhanging trees in Ravelston Park and along by Craigcrook Castle both reported through the portal.

Other matters - Councillor Hal Osler also reported on :-

- Craigeith Rd SW closure has been delayed until towards the end of October, due to issues with Scottish Water getting materials;
- On going communication regarding the SfP measures on the Queensferry Rd - a plan still has not come forward, still pressing to have the 2 lanes reinstated outbound at Craigeith junction and the left turn lane reinstated at Craigeith Crescent;
- Spoken to NHS Lothian as there has been concern about the state of the trees on both the Royal Vic and WGH site, they are going to do a survey and get back;
- Couple of residents had contacted her concerned about a lack of a gate between Ravelston Park/Woods, a small child managed to wander of towards the cliff path. Parks officers are reviewing what can be done;
- Contacted Police regarding concern over sheds being broken into around Strachan Rd (see also Police Report above).

Councillors Reports - Councillors present raised the following additional matters

Spaces for People - Queensferry Road - residents were concerned about the volume of traffic on Queensferry Road making it difficult for pedestrians to cross at the Orchard Road junction. Council staff's suggestion suggested crossing at the Craigeith Road junction but this was considered unrealistic.

Flooding - problems in the Hillpark area had resulted in residents being passed between City Council staff and Scottish Water with no satisfactory solution to date.

Next meeting - to be held online at 7.30 pm on Monday 18 October 2021 using Teams.

Alan Denham
Secretary
25 September 2021