

**Minutes of Meeting of the Craigleith and Blackhall Community Council on 10 June 2013
in Stewart's Melville College Dining Hall**

Present: Eddie Thorn (Chair), Ian Hewitt (Vice Chair), Maureen Kane (Sec), Alan Denham (Treasurer), Alasdair Watson, George Millar, John Adams, Sally McKenzie, Dave Halbert, Margaret Richardson, Claire Lynch, Cllr Barrie, Cllr Hinds, Cllr Bagshaw. Guests: Stephen Mitchell, Fraser McIlraith, A N Other.

Apologies: Mark Lazarowicz, John Young, Neil Watt, Cllr Iain Whyte

Minutes of Previous Meeting; Approved by Ian Hewitt and seconded by Eddie Thorne

Police Report: No report. In the light of press reports, John Adams expressed concern regarding a decline in crime clear up rates following the creation of Police Scotland. Matter to be considered further at a future meeting.

Chair's Report: Eddie Thorn covered a number of matters listed in the Business part of the agenda (see below). Claire Lynch and Andrew Niven were thanked for their contribution and wished well for their future studies at university and careers.

Secretary's Report: No report

Treasurers Report: Alan Denham reported £1416.74 in the account.

Planning: Alan Denham reported that the site visit by the Scottish Government Reporter in to the appeal for the large advertisement hoarding at 2 Strachan Road will take place Thursday 13 June.

Local Development Plan : 2 objections submitted as previously agreed. Additionally agreed that an objection should be submitted expressing concern about the inadequate controls over new developments in established residential areas such as Blackhall and Carigleith.

Royal Victoria Hospital: following recent press release by NHS Lothian that the hospital will be retained for the medium term to provide additional flexibility, no objection to the Plan to be lodged. More generally will await further information regarding NHS Lothian's intentions and if necessary ask them to a future CC meeting.

Councillors' Report: Cllr Barrie reported on the Section 75 Agreement for the new 8 house development at Hillpark contributing £6k to the bus tracker information. Cllr Barrie and Ian Hewitt will explore whether there are other outstanding moneys from Section 75 Agreements. Sally Mackenzie said that if the Agreements are registered in the Land Register or Sasines there is a liability on successor owners.

Cllr Hinds commented on the new High Hedges Act recently approved by the Scottish Parliament. Additionally the Council are consulting on a draft report on Trees. The Transport and Environment Committee at their recent meeting approved additional funding for the maintenance of roads and pavements in the City. New hot repair teams would be established for each Neighbourhood Partnership and the City Centre.

Business

Blackhall Dip: Eddie Thorn reported that Caroline Burwell from CEC Traffic had not reported back on the CBCC's concerns about speeding traffic through Blackhall and problems with the traffic lights at the Sainsbury's/Queensferry Rd junction.

Cairn Housing: following last month's meeting Rosi Watt had e-mailed Eddie Thorn informing that Cairn Housing Association were looking for a successor organisation to take over their homes including Columba Road. Should this be unsuccessful, the homes would now close later - in September 2014.

Planning Concordat: Alan Denham attended the recent meeting in the City Chambers. Following discussion, agreed that CBCC would support the principle of the Concordat but express reservations in the consultation about the potential workload for Community Councils manned by volunteers.

Section 75 Agreements: see Councillors' reports above

Blackhall Dip Signage: Alasdair Watson reported on recent good progress and said that he awaits the outcome of a meeting between Council officials. Will report back later.

Orchard Park South: rubber matting had been removed and other minor problems addressed.

Priority Parking Blinkbonny Area: a drop-in session explaining the proposals has been arranged for 18 June at Blackhall St Columba's Church Hall.

AOCB

Street Lighting - George Millar commented that the current pilot scheme to reduce light pollution had now been extended from Queensferry Road to Craigleith Road. Residents were concerned about the reduced level of lighting on the footpath. Cllr Hinds said that an assessment of the pilot scheme would be undertaken later in the year.

Traffic restrictions Craigleithhill area – Sally Mackenzie commented that the proposed traffic restrictions include parking spaces at Craigleithhill Road/Crescent which will restrict severely sight lines for traffic and should be removed.

Traffic Issues Crewe Toll area – Stephen Mitchell commented that some Davidson Road and Grigor Avenue residents were concerned about through traffic seeking to avoid the Crewe Toll roundabout junction. He was seeking to close the road to through traffic and had undertaken an e-mail survey of 200 local residents. Of 60 responses 50% were supportive. He acknowledged that this was insufficient to proceed with the measure. Eddie Thorn said that the Community Council was unaware of the issue as there is nobody on the CC knowledgeable of the local problems in this area. To address this matter following discussion it was agreed that Stephen Mitchell should be co-opted to the Community Council.

The next meeting is on Monday 9 September 2013 in Stewart's Melville Dining Hall at 7.30pm. Future meetings are listed on the Community Council web site.