

Minute of the Annual General Meeting of the Craigleith and Blackhall Community Council on 12 May 2014 in Stewart's Melville College Dining Hall

Present: Eddie Thorn (Chair), Ian Hewitt (Vice Chair), Alan Denham, George Millar, Neil Watt, Jim Bishop, Maureen Kane, Rupert Lezemore, Ross McElhinney, Kirsty McLaughlan (Police Scotland), Cllrs Barrie and Hinds.

Apologies : Margaret Richardson, Cllr Bagshaw

Election of office bearers: Cllr Barrie conducted the election of office bearers. Eddie Thorn was elected Chair [ Proposed by Ian Hewitt and seconded by Alan Denham ], Ian Hewitt elected Vice Chair [ Proposed by Eddie Thorn and seconded by Alan Denham ]and Alan Denham elected as Treasurer [ Proposed by Ian Hewitt and seconded by Neil Watt ].

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Minutes of the meeting of 14April2014 were approved.

Chair's Report: Following discussion on establishing a system of delegated authority, the group agreed that office bearers could act on behalf of the Community Council where the views of the CC were known (eg to respond to planning applications at very short notice). Emails in the future were to be flagged clearly 'for action' or 'for information' to help cut down administration associated with managing CBCC business. Eddie also advised that the application for the extension of Stewart's Melville had been submitted and suggested this as a future topic for discussion by the Community Council. He added that two trophies had been provided for the Blackhall Sports Day on 7 June.

Treasurer's Report: CBCC's annual accounts were approved.

Councillors' Reports: Cllr Bagshaw advised that the CBCC should aim not to carry over any unspent funds into the next financial year, and updated on the latest position with the proposals for new housing development at Cammo/Maybury and potential for Section 75 money to be used where the impacts of the development were felt (eg to counter increases in transport and pollution in CBCC area). Cllr Hinds also spoke about the position the CEC was in in terms of provision of new housing, stating her preference was for brownfield sites to be used where possible. The CBCC agreed to pursue a policy highlighting the need for 'integrated solutions' around any new development, to ensure sufficient investment was made by developers in local infrastructure (schools, public transport provision, pedestrian/cycling crossings over Queensferry Road etc) to compensate for new housing as part of any significant new development affecting the CBCC area.

Cllr Hinds also updated on the extension of the contract for the 13 bus serving the community, and the group discussed the impact of the Lothian service not serving Craigleith Retail Park at weekends due to high volume of traffic. The group were particularly concerned for the impact of this decision on elderly residents and those with reduced mobility.

Police Report: Kirsty McLaughlan updated on recent crime in the CBCC area. There had been a

spate of shed brake ins and she encouraged residents to ensure garden buildings were secure with suitable locks, alarms etc. There followed discussion on high speed racing on Queensferry Road, motorcycles on cycle paths, brightness of road flashing warning signs and parking on Telford Road pavements, all of which Kirsty agreed to report back to HQ.

Groathill Avenue/Road South Parking Issues: Ian Hewitt updated that the Groathill traffic order was 'on its way' and there may be scope to improve pedestrian safety/access over the bridge.

Business Plan : The Business Plan was agreed. Referendum hustings: Eddie Thorn agreed to look into facilitating a referendum hustings with Yes Scotland and the Better Together campaigns ahead of the referendum.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Craigleith and Blackhall Community Council will be held in the Dining Hall of Stewart's Melville College on Monday 16 June 2014 at 7.30pm.