

Meeting Minutes - 12 October 2015

7.30pm | Dining Hall, Stewart's Melville College

Committee present - Ian Hewitt, James McLennan, George Miller, Ross McElhinney, Nigel Bagshaw

Apologies - Rupert Lezmore, Alan Denham, Margaret Richardson, Deidre Brock, Neil Watt, Jim Bishop

Minutes of the previous meeting

- At a recent Partnership Meeting it was mentioned that the funding is some way in the future for the CCTV at the Groathill Junction
- Nigel is to let Ian know of the Committee decision on the Groathill TRO.

Police Scotland Report

Sarah Hall (one of the Council funded officers) reported on a comparison of crime stats between August 2015 and a 5 year average that housebreaking was down 38%, motor crimes down 22%, driving offences down 14.5 %.

A query was raised re comparing August 2015 with August 2014 and Sarah reported that housebreaking was 21% down.

Sarah said that these improvements were due to the use of plainclothes units, a successful bid for extra resources from outside, the use of unmarked cars and the checking up on bailed people.

Parking on Telford Road – signs had been put up warning that cars would be towed away – and this has resolved the issue.

Use is being made of car speed guns in the area of Blackhall Primary.

George reported that there was a fault in the Broughton High School 20 mph sign – and Sarah will action.

Chair's Report

- We have been invited to attend a consultation on parking in Edinburgh.
- There is a Social media session on 21 October at the Drumbrae Hub.
- There is an invite to attend a Cities Convention in Perth on 13 November

Secretary's Report - Nothing to report

Treasurer's Report - No change since last month

Planning Report

Recent weeks there have been a number of difficult planning and advertisement control applications that have generated objections and concern from local residents.

Applications:

- The illuminated large advertisement billboard at junction of Craigcrook Road and Queensferry Road
 - 139 objections/comments received
- Care Home, Hillhouse Road requiring virtual clearance of Hillhouse Road woods
 - 43 objections submitted
- Groathill Road South – additional detached house on site with planning permission for flats and one detached house
 - 2 objections submitted

Nigel pointed out that only the Developer can appeal against a Council decision – but not the Community.

CEC Councillors' Report - LED Lighting in the trees continues to be a problem

Matters Arising

- Strachan Road
- Recent traffic accident involving four cars. Police and ambulance present.
- This was at the part of the road where the width is restricted by parked cars

- March Road – similar road width problems as for Strachan Road
- Recent Scotsman newspaper public notice of extending the waiting restrictions on Craigleith Road. George reported that a new 'No Parking' post has been erected at the top of Craigleith Road, but that there are no road markings. If anyone wanted an update, then contact Neil McFarlane
- Pedestrian/Cyclist crossing at Craigelith. We would need to contact Neil McFarlane for more details
- Missing lamp Standards – awaiting a response from Neil McFarlane and possibly Councillor Gavin Barrie
- Speeding on Queensferry Road – continuing problem
- Also includes buses and cars

- Pavement cleaning on Hillhouse Road – poor cleaning with plastics, broken glass and a mound of earth left after the last mechanical clean in August
- 2 Strachan Road – missing bench not been reinstated
- Recent two car accident at junction of Craigleith Hill Crescent and Craigleith Road. Ambulance and Police were called. George is in e-mail correspondence with Michelle Fraser as this is a potential danger spot. George met with Neil McFarlane and A.N.Other 1 1/2 years ago after a previous accident. It was pointed out that there could be further problems at this junction as the new Victoria Hospital unit will be using the adjacent exit at the cottage as both an entrance and an exit. Nigel will ask about this.
- Ian will ask Neil McFarlane to come along the next meeting as there are several questions and issues that require answers
- Blackhall Christmas Celebrations –these are currently being organised. Last year, we donated funds for the purchase of a Christmas tree and it was proposed and agreed that we do the same again this year, but this time we provide funds in the region of £150 to £200. It was agreed that we purchase a banner 'Supported by Craigleith/Blackhall C.C.' with no date on it. Ian will contact Bailie Signs and he will also redo our 'Pop-Up' banner.

Finally, it was noted that Eddie Thorn has formally resigned and we thank him for all his work over the years since the inception of Craigleith/Blackhall C.C.

Date of the next meeting: Monday 9 November 2015