

Minutes of the meeting of Craigleith and Blackhall Community Council on 13 February 2012 in Stewart's Melville Dining Hall.

Present: Eddie Thorn (Chair), John Young (Vice-chair), Maureen Kane (Sec), Alan Denham (Treasurer)

Jack Burton, John Adams, Margaret Richardson, Alasdair Watson, Ian Hewitt, Cllr Hinds, Cllr Whyte,

Elaine Lennon, PC Gordon Ross

Guests; George Morrison, Thomas Brown, George Millar, Lesley Moyes, Martin James

Apologies: Cllr Mclvor, Cllr McKay, Neil Watt, Alastair Nairn, Dave Halbert

Minutes of Previous Meeting: approved by Ian Hewitt, seconded by John Adams

Police Report: PC Ross reported an increase in housebreak-ins, bike thefts and assaults and urged vigilance. Junior Road Safety officers at Stewart's Melville and Flora Stevenson would undergo training. Parking on corners around the Queens Ave/ Seaforth Dr area was noted by police and double yellow lines will be drawn though no time scale could be given. Guest, Martin James, was concerned that cars parked in bays around Blackhall Dip, at peak times, led to the narrowing of the road by the traffic island which made it dangerous and difficult for cyclists. PC Ross would alert traffic patrols and wardens to the dangers of this practice. Residents at Orchard Drive complained that cars were parked across driveways.

Blackhall Mosque: Thomas Brown talked about plans to redevelop the Mosque. Plans include building another level inside the building but nothing would be added to the actual height of the building from the outside. There were proposals to make two existing buildings into one. There would be a community hall for standard lets. General concerns surrounded the increased capacity as it was thought that this would lead to an increase in cars parked in the area. Mr Brown said wardens would be employed to patrol the area at peak times to identify parking offenders. John Adams was concerned that the hall intended for community lets might be subject to rules of the Mosque and especially limit events where boys and girls mix.

Cllr Hind's Report: Cllr Hinds (Lab) reported on her recent transport meeting which was held in Stockbridge on the same night as the last CBCC meeting. She distributed a two-page report which outlined priorities including: safer pavements and paths, co-ordinated utilities work, bus routes and creating a public transport forum. Cllr Whyte (Con) spoke briefly about his party's interpretation of the existing problems with transport in the city. Eddie Thorn (Chair) pointed out that other parties could have a forum at future meetings, if desired.

Matters Arising;

Woodland Debris and Poor Maintenance; Ian Hewitt expressed concern about ivy rampaging through the trees on the walkway/cycle path. John Adams was concerned about general state of area from Maidencraig Court to the walkway. Elaine Lennon asked him to contact her with his concerns. Cllr Hinds will report poor woodland maintenance to the appropriate department.

Orchard Park North; John Young explained the options for improvements to Orchard Park North and these were discussed. John Young wanted to leaflet residents living around the park but it was felt that it would generate too many differing opinions. It was agreed that access to the park was a priority, therefore, the installation of steps was approved by the committee. John Young will email Ritchie Fraser (Parks Dept) to inform him of the decision. Maureen Kane (Sec) will apply to INP for a grant for two metal benches and bins.

Blackhall Signage: George Morrison, who represents Blackhall Traders, was concerned that no signage existed for Blackhall. Alasdair Watson explained the problems he encountered. Cllr Whyte said that he had investigated the issue and had been given spurious reasons for refusal of signage. It was pointed out that Juniper Green had new signage. Cllr Whyte agreed to investigate the reasons for the planning blockage and find out why Juniper Green could have a sign whilst Blackhall was denied one. Cllr Hinds suggested a design should be submitted to INP for approval. Eddie Thorn (Chair) will contact Blackhall Primary School to suggest a competition for a Blackhall Design and an application for funding for this winning design would be submitted to INP though Elaine Lennon thought there would be no funds available.

Royal Victoria Hospital: Lesley Moyes and George Millar, who are neighbours and on Craighleith

Road, raised concerns about the future of the site at the existing RVH, especially the fate of the numerous mature trees on the land. Their concerns stem from reports that the building will be demolished soon after Ward 1 moves to Royal Edinburgh. Cllr Whyte was unaware of this intention

in the short term though there were long term plans to redevelop the site once the property value

increased. He explained that recent regulation changes meant the proceeds from the sale of the land would now go to NHS Scotland and not to NHS Lothian as was the case in previous land sales.

Maureen Kane (Sec) reminded the committee that no Tree Preservation Orders existed on the mature trees in the ground. She will email John Bury at planning to ask why there is no existing order

and make enquiries about the procedures which need to be taken for the CBCC to obtain TPO's.

Councillors will be copied in.

Next meeting is on 12 March in Stewart's Melville Dining Hall at 7.30pm.