

Minutes of the Meeting of the Craigleith and Blackhall Community Council on 15 April 2013 in Stewart's Melville College Dining Room

Present: Eddie Thorn (Chair), Ian Hewitt (Vice-chair), Maureen Kane (Secretary), Alan Denham (Treasurer), John Young, Neil Watt, Liam Keegan, John Adams, Sally McKenzie, Cllr Hinds

Guests; Liam Watson, Kathryn Addison, Margery Addison, Veronica Elias, David Wishart, Eleanor MacDonald Sally Rae, Stuart Rae, Kate Campbell, Helen Bassett, Christine Baker, Liz Cochrane

Apologies: Margaret Richardson, Dave Halbert, Mark Lazarowicz, Cllr Gavin Barrie, Cllr Nigel Bagshaw

Minutes of Previous Meeting; Minutes of the February meeting and March meeting were approved by John Young and seconded by Ian Hewitt

Chair's Report: George Millar, a nominated member for Blackhall St Columba's Church replacing Jack Burton, was welcomed on to the committee. Ian Hewitt approved and seconded by Eddie Thorn. Alistair Nairn resigned and was thanked by Eddie Thorn. AGM will be in May but the election of office bearers will be postponed until after the September. Gavin Barrie, in his absence, was assigned the role of Returning Officer for the September CC elections. Police Report: Police were not in attendance.

Secretary's Report:

Blackhall Lounge has applied for part change of use of premises to include an eating area. No objection would be submitted by CBCC. Dave Halbert asked for £195 as payment for the Interschool debate. There was a mixed response to the request therefore it was agreed that no decision would be taken until Dave was present. Dave Halbert, in an email, also suggested that the CBCC use the Blackhall sports day to advertise forthcoming CC elections. Maureen Kane

will forward Alan Denham details of a CEC/CC planning agreement.

#### Planning Report:

Alan Denham recommended that the Community Council should object to Local Development Plan on three grounds - the increased traffic on Queensferry Rd arising from the large- scale house building proposed in the Plan in the green belt at Cammo and Maybury; to the proposed boundary of the local shopping centre at the Telford Rd/Hillhouse Road/Strachan Road junction; and subject to the future use of the Victoria Hospital, to the absence of guidance on its reuse if surplus. It appears that Victoria Hospital is still in use. Lesley Hinds suggested that CC write to the Health Board and ask about a time frame for the sale of the land. Maureen Kane will make enquiries.

#### Councillors' Report:

Lesley Hinds reported that the gullies in Blinkbonny Gds had been cleaned out. The yellow boxes had been painted on Queensferry Rd junctions. Priority Parking (PP) would go back to the Blinkbonny area for a final consultation and Cllr Hinds would report back on the timescale for this. John Adams asked if Maidencraig Court would be included in PP.

Cllr Hinds reported that permission had been given for a Blackhall sign to be erected.

John Adams felt that the street lighting from the Holiday Inn junction towards the dip was poor. Cllr Hinds explained that the CEC policy was to reduce environmental pollution but would investigate to see if this reduction had been introduced along this stretch. Alan Denham said he would object to any reduction in lighting as there had been a noticeable difference in the walkway between Queensferry Rd and Hillpark Way. Ian Hewitt noted that the lighting on the pedestrian pathway in Sainsburys was much improved but there seemed to be no sign of alteration to the Queensferry Rd entrance to improve the lighting.

#### Matters Arising:

Dog Fouling; Lesley Hinds reported back on Dog Wardens visit to Orchard Park North. She read out parts of the Rules for Park Management. There was a procurement issue with bins. Several dog-walkers who attended the meeting were concerned that sterner measures might be taken to limit the use of the park to dog-walkers. Maureen Kane had received several emails and a letter expressing concern from dog walkers that there was to be a ban on dogs in the park. She said that the CC had never asked for such measures to be taken and this was a rumour with no foundation. Guests made the following points: bags should be provided; bins were not emptied; dog walkers were not consulted on the park improvements; the area of leafleting should have been wider; the word 'blight' used in previous minutes was extreme and untrue; wardens should visit the park more often; a fence should be built around the park beside the play equipment. Eddie Thorn pointed out that leafleting was limited due to time. Cllr Hinds would investigate the possibility of a fence, bins and more visits by environmental wardens. The new notice board belonged to the CEC but Cllr Hinds will find out how it can be used by members of the public.

Blackhall Dip: Caroline Burwell was on holiday therefore, there was no update on speeding through the dip.

Business:

Priority Parking: Eddie Thorn will organise a public meeting in Blackhall library to discuss PP. Leaflets will be distributed to advertise the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13 May 2013 in Stewart's Melville College Dining Hall at 7.30pm.