

Minutes of the meeting of the CBCC on 9 September 2013 at 7.30pm in Stewart's Melville Dining Hall

Present: Eddie Thorn (Chair), Ian Hewitt (Vice-chair), Maureen Kane (Secretary), Alan Denham (Treasurer), , John Adams, Dave Halbert, Liam Keegan, Alasdair Watson, Neil Watt, John Young, Cllr Bagshaw, Cllr Hinds.

Apologies: Sally McKenzie, George Millar

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Approved by Ian Hewitt and seconded by Eddie Thorn.

Chair's Report: Eddie Thorn urged all members to encourage nominees for the upcoming election. Sally McKenzie was thanked for her valuable contribution to the CBCC.

Treasurer's Report: Bank account- £1416.88. On 5 September notified of 2013/14 City Council grant - £611.14 Total - £2028.02

Planning Report - generally quiet period - mostly householder applications. Two applications to note: Advertisement Hoarding at 2 Strachan Road was subject of an appeal. The Scottish Government Reporter, following a site visit in June (15 local residents attended), refused advertisement control consent on a number of grounds: no general commercial advertising signage comparable in size or nature within the locality (in other words it would set a precedent); it would be significantly damaging to the amenity of the area by creating an unacceptably dominant and overpowering feature which offered no enhancement to the streetscape or wider visual amenity. It would provide an unacceptable increase in the potential for driver distraction and would be contrary to the interests of public safety. Since 2008, 4 applications and 2 appeals were all refused advertisement control consent. Another application to note was the conversion of the empty office block on Queensferry Road to residential. An exchange of e-mails showed difference of views on the issue of its retention as an office block. Dave Halbert pointed out at the meeting that the applicant said that CC was consulted and this was an erroneous statement. Alan Denham will inform the Planning Department.

Secretary's Report: Appropriate emails sent weekly.

Councillors' Report: Cllr Bagshaw said he was investigating Section 75 agreements for 102 Telford Rd (the former Telford College) to find out where anomalies lie. Cllr Hinds said that a 20 mph speed limit would be introduced to most of the streets in the CBCC area though as yet not all have been identified. Details will be published at the end of the year

INP Report: John Adams thanked the CBCC again for their contribution to Blackhall Athletic FC. He reported on the ways in which the money has been spent and the success of the club.

Matters Arising:

Road Safety on Queensferry Rd: Caroline Burwell sent apologies. Maureen Kane will inform her of the date of the next meeting and Eddie Thorn will contact her.

Section 75 Agreements: Ian Hewitt believed that millions of pounds remained uncollected. He felt that future claims should be pursued more vigorously by CEC officials. A discussion took place and Cllr Bagshaw said that CEC recently had better awareness and new rules should make claiming and agreements more transparent.

Blackhall Dip Signage: Alasdair Watson had several communications from CEC regarding Blackhall signage. An agreement has been reached; the committee voted in favour of a sign saying Blackhall Village and displaying a badger logo. The signs will be placed just before Blackhall St Columba's Church for traffic approaching the city centre and near Baillie Sign shop for traffic leaving the city. Alasdair Watson was thanked for his hard work in securing signage.

Business:

Craighleith Cres./Queensferry Rd Junction: Alan Denham reported a near miss at this junction and believed that traffic lights might alleviate the dangers here. Police Scotland Traffic Dept did not think that lights would be appropriate and Neil McFarlane (area Roads Manager) proposed a yellow box. Ian Hewitt felt that a yellow box was a good idea and Dave Halbert believed the whole junction was a problem. Cllr Hinds will organise a meeting with Neil McFarlane, Caroline Burwell and Scott McElroy to discuss the problem and propose solutions.

Interschool Debate: Dave Halbert reminded people to attend the interschool debate.

Council phone calls: Ian Hewitt objected to receiving a Sunday phone call from the CEC as part of a survey and asked Cllr Hinds to investigate as he believed a Sunday was an inappropriate time.

The next meeting of the CBCC is on 7 October 2013 in Stewart's Melville College in the Sixth Form Centre.

NB: The Sixth Form Centre; go past the Dining Hall door, go through the Sports Club door, take the first door on your left, go past the big window, down the sloping corridor and take the first door on your left. Any problems then speak to sports club reception as they will be aware of the meeting.