

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council
Minutes of Meeting Monday 15 January 2018
Held in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall

Present : Emma Phillips (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary/Treasurer), Claudia Romero, Peter May, James Maclennan, Fergus Henderson, Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Gavin Barrie, Max Mitchell,
Also in attendance PC Holly Matheson, PC Donald Thomson, Pat Denzler, David Thomson, Jim Hall

Apologies : Rupert Lezmore, Neil Watt, Paul Moran, Martin Riddell, Councillor Iain Whyte, Michael Cockburn, Deidre Brock MP

Meeting of 4 December 2017 - minutes agreed and approved.

Matters arising :-

Emma Philips had submitted comments on the draft City Council budget;
Third person for cheque signatures still required - RBS had issued incorrect forms;
Rubbish clear-up on walkway/cycle track is organised by Sustrans - takes place on last Thursday of the month, meeting at the Craigleith junction.

Police Report - PC Holly Matheson introduced PC Thomson who was part of a new task force based at Drylaw. She explained official stats are produced annually, other information was from local understanding. PC Matheson noted 2 house break-ins, vandalism in Wester Drylaw including damage to cars.

PC Matheson had attended Blackhall Primary School and other local schools - she thought the parking problems were easing. Speeding remains a problem and in February Blackhall Dip, Strachan Road, Craigcrook Road and Ravelston Dykes Road will be targeted.

Shoplifting at Craigleith Retail Centre had reduced due to the presence of plain clothes officers.

Fergus Henderson commented on the anti-social behaviour by a large group of children (30) from outwith the area visiting Ravelston Woods and Ravelston Park. Other issues raised - motorbikes on the walkway / cycle path; parking on footpaths eg Telford Road, Queensferry Road.

Chair Report - little to report this month.

Secretary Report - Sub Group on Traffic and Safety Issues - Alan Denham had circulated a draft report - it was agreed that it should be considered fully in February. Councillor Osler was to meet the chair of the Transport and Environment Committee later in the week - the focus of the meeting was to be Queensferry Road and the unsafe crossing for Royal High School pupils at Clermiston Road. Traffic light problems at Quality Street junction were also noted.

Planning Report - the 3rd planning application for a care home at Hillhouse Road Woods had not yet been submitted - there was no further information from the developer. The same developer - Northcare - had received planning permission on 19 December 2017 for the redevelopment of the G4S offices at Telford Road as a care home. Development

Management Sub Committee were to visit Craigmock Road later in the week, also a care home application.

Treasurer Report - Maddie and Marks had expressed their appreciation of the continued support by the Community Council for the Blackhall Dip Christmas tree as part of the Christmas event organised by the Dip shops and businesses.

Blackhall Community Trust - Fergus Henderson provided an update on the Trust proposals. A grant of £15k was being used to prepare plans and business plans. A tender to design had been issued and architects appointed. The nursery was moving fast. A public meeting will be held on 6 March to consult on the design.

Councillors Reports - Councillor Osler had met with the road teams to look at the condition of local footpaths including Hillpark Way.

Orchard Road - Both she and Councillor Barrie had received complaints from local residents in Orchard Road about speeding and the need for a crossing. Councillor Mitchell had also received a request for pedestrian island in Orchard Road.

Peter May commented on the poor condition of Queensferry Road, particularly the broken and sunken gully drains. Agreed that the problem should be photographed.

Pat Denzler commented on the weed problem at the red bridge at Ferry Road.

AOCB - it was noted that there was not yet a final decision on the future of the Royal Victoria Hospital site on Craigmock Road. Where NHS consider a site to be surplus, the City Council are looking to acquire such sites for places making.

Next meeting - Monday 19 February at 7.30pm at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Alan Denham
Secretary
27 January 2017