

**Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting Monday 19 March 2018**  
**Held in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall**

**Present** : Emma Phillips (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary/Treasurer), Rupert Lezemore, Martin Riddell, Michael Cockburn, Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Max Mitchell, Iain Whyte

In attendance PC Holly Matheson, David Thomson, Pat Denzler, Philip and Ellen Nesfield, one other

**Apologies** : Paul Moran, James Maclennan, Peter May, Claudia Romero, Neil Watt, Deidre Brock MP

**Meeting of 19 February 2018** - minutes agreed and approved.

**Police Report** - PC Holly Matheson summarised some of the current issues - shoplifting at Craigleith Retail Centre is rampant - there are regular operations to tackle it; parking in Drylaw Avenue; attempted break-in at Blackhall Mosque, plus parking issues associated with Friday prayers. Speed checks had been carried out on Craigmack Road, Strachan Road - the aim is to use the speed guns once a month. Roads with 20mph speed limit and wide enough to stop vehicles safely are being targeted.

Other issues raised:- an eye is being kept on possible anti-social behaviour in Ravelston Woods With linked problems in Maidencraig Crescent Martin Riddell said he would e-mail Peter Strong with additional evidence for the CCTV enabled pole to have a camera installed. PC Matheson also said that they were still awaiting training on the use of bicycles.

A local resident from Strachan Road said that he had been burgled for the second time, on both occasions when building and extension works were under way. PC Matheson acknowledged that houses with building work were targets for break-ins.

The continued parking on Telford Road footpath was noted and City Councillors agreed to report on the progress of the draft Traffic Road Order (TRO).

The possibility of holding a surgery of up to 2 hrs at Blackhall Library may be once every 2 months rather than monthly because of staff resources and other Police commitments.

**Chair Report** - Emma Phillips reported on two main items - a recent joint meeting with other Community Councils in north-west Edinburgh. Main issues discussed were traffic congestion and the likelihood of it increasing with a large number of houses to be built on the west side of the city - the implications for traffic pollution and a low emission zone (LEZ) on St John's Road. The joint meeting had agreed that a survey would be undertaken on transport and travel issues.

Emma had received information on the Blackhall Community Trust's plans for the proposed nursery and community hub in Ravelston Park. There had been an exhibition of the proposals in Blackhall Library 26 February - 6 March and a further consultation session would take place on 28 March in Blackhall Primary School.

**Secretary / Planning Report** - following the consultation on LEZs by the Scottish Government in 2017, Alan Denham reported that the results of consultation had shown strong support for their introduction on 24 hour basis in the four cities. He reported that a CC objection had been submitted to the details of the proposed housing development planning application at the former petrol filling station at Craigleith Road. The presence of banner advertisements, particularly at Strachan Road and the exit to Craigleith Retail Park, referred to at the previous meeting, were to be inspected by the Planning Enforcement Section. A meeting to consider the Local Development Plan Review was to be held by the City Council on 27 March. Proposals to widen the footpath in D Mains Park were welcomed but there was disappointment that the improvements no longer included the waiting area for pedestrians, particularly Royal High pupils, at the foot of Clermiston Road North. Councillor Osler said that they were to be included as part of a separate traffic light and junction improvements and subject to finance; all Queensferry Road junctions were to be upgraded - Craigleith junction would commence in autumn 2018.

**Other Matters raised** - road salt bins- there is an interactive map on the Council web site showing bins.

Councillor Osler said that the repair of the 2017 road works on Craigcrook Road and East Fettes Avenue was being pursued. The generally poor conditions of many roads following the recent severe weather was commented on by Community Councillors eg Queensferry Road.

The need for removal of out of date public notices on lamp posts was questioned.

Waste collection - following the recent severe weather and consequential delays to waste bin collection, it was noted that in Hillpark Way collections, recycled materials had been mixed with landfill in the same collection vehicle. As other streets in Blackhall had the same experience, Councillor Osler said that Council officials are investigating.

**Next meeting** - Monday 16 April at 7.30pm at Blackhall St Columba's Church

Alan Denham  
Secretary  
24 March 2018