

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting Monday 20 August 2018

Held in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall

Present, Alan Denham (Acting Chair)(Secretary), Martin Riddell, Peter May, Michael Cockburn, Fergus Henderson, Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Gavin Barrie, Max Mitchell. In attendance PC Neville Richardson, Christine Jardine MP and XX others from the local community

Apologies : Emma Phillips (Chair), James Maclennan, Paul Moran, Claudia Romero, Councillor Iain Whyte.

Minutes of 18 June 2018 meeting - approved.

Matters arising - speeding on Craigcrook Road. Despite the Secretary e-mailing the local Council road team twice, there had been no response to the suggestion that the speed limit should be supported by physical measures such as speed bumps. It was agreed he would follow it up again. There was concern from local residents that police priority was being given to the other end of Craigcrook Rd. PC Richardson acknowledged that higher speeds on the Davidson's Mains section of Craigcrook Road was a problem, but the local view was that the narrower nature of the road at Ravelston Park made it equally dangerous.

Bench outside Abingers - it had been removed to assess whether it could be restored.

Police Scotland Report - PC Neville Richardson said that in reporting traffic matters to the police, it was not always possible to take forward as the standard of evidence required by the courts is high. Police Scotland had been taking a stronger approach to speed limit enforcement and had recently targeted Dean Bridge exit, Blackhall Dip and Queensferry Road. It would be helpful to inform police of best time to undertake speed checks.

They were still patrolling Ravelston Woods but there had been little evidence of anti-social behaviour recently. Checks on licensed premises for under age alcohol sales were being carried out.

PC Richardson said that they are to hold a Police Surgery at Blackhall Library on 8 September. Cycle training had now commenced which will make the area more easily accessible.

It was suggested that by a member of the public that mobile speed cameras, similar to those on the continent, should be used by the Police. It was acknowledged that fixed cameras are the responsibility of the City Council. PC Richardson was looking into whether the Police speed van could be used.

There was also concern that the stop sign and line at the foot of Strachan Road was often ignored, leading to potential accidents.

Community Council matters

Alan Denham reported on the planning application for the Care Home at Hillhouse Road Woods which had been submitted during the recess. There were over 130 objections predominantly from local Blackhall residents.

There was to be an on-site meeting on 22 August to consider the petition regarding traffic congestion in Blackhall particularly on Craigmock Road and Strachan Road

Alan Denham reported on recent City Council Committee papers, one of which on public transport noted the delays occurring on A90 Queensferry Road. Short term action was to improve traffic lights at junctions including Hillhouse Road/Telford Road. Councillor Osler said that they would enable Lothian Buses to have priority. Longer term there was the possibility of bus lanes being introduced.

Bus stop spacing in the city is to be reviewed to increase spacing to 400 metres. The existing spacing is generally less than 400 metres. If implemented it was noted that it could be more difficult for local residents including the elderly and disabled to gain easy access to buses. A Council proposal to increase pedestrianisation in the city centre and curtail bus services at the edge would also diminish the attraction and benefits of the current local bus services. Councillor Barrie said the Council would be consulting on some of these proposals.

Other matters raised - poor standard of resurfacing on Craigmock Road - Councillor Osler is to question the Council on this matter.

Queens Road Steps - progress on alternatives to the steps was asked. It was noted that it is in a long list of Council projects but the City Councillors thought land ownership issues had to be addressed first to enable works to proceed.

Councillor Osler noted that urban foxes in Craigmock and Blackhall were increasing and she had asked the Environmental Wardens to comment. Audience had also noted their increasing presence.

Next meeting - Monday 17 September 2018 in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall at 7.30pm

Alan Denham
Secretary
21 August 2018