

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting Monday 22 October 2018

Held in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall

Present : Emma Phillips (Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Martin Riddell (Treasurer), Inverleith Ward Councillor Hal Osler. In attendance 4 residents from the local community.

Apologies : Rupert Lezmore, Peter May, Paul Moran, Claudia Romero, James McLennan, Michael Cockburn, Councillors Gavin Barrie and Max Mitchell, Deidre Brock MP, Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP.

Minutes of 17 September meeting - approved.

Matter arising from the September meeting : -

Crowd funding of pedestrian crossing at Blackhall Primary School - Councillor Hal Osler reported that Councillor Gavin Barrie had explored the issue with officials. Council officials said that a proposal to crowd fund raises a number of problems - who would be responsible for the carrying out the works; the ongoing maintenance of the crossing if installed; and the problem of queue jumping when officials consider that other locations have a higher priority for a pedestrian crossing.

Blackhall Primary School Janitorial Services - the problems have not been formally resolved, although for the immediate needs, interim arrangements for events at the school have been put in place. Councillor Hal Osler said that the problem, applicable to all primary schools, had been raised at a full Council meeting - Council agreed that it was up to individual schools to deal with the matter. The Chair said that it was for the parents School Group to lead and the Community Council will support the school group. The Chair also stated that the City Council are consulting on extending the restrictive changes to janitorial services to secondary schools and she will comment on behalf of the Community Council.

Pedestrian traffic lights phasing for pedestrians at Blackhall Library and Blackhall Dip - the matter had been reported to road officials and a reply had not yet been received. It is understood that Police Scotland will be carrying out checks at Blackhall Dip. Additionally Councillor Hal Osler commented that there were problems for right turning traffic from Queensferry Road into Quality Street and from Telford Road into Groathill Road North - she is looking into the problem.

Public bench at Ravelston Dykes Road and Craigcrook Road - no further information was available.

Police Scotland Report - PC Holly Matheson was unfortunately unable to attend following an accident. The Community Council wished her a quick recovery.

Martin Riddell noted that there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour by groups of youths in Ravelston Woods, and Councillor Osler said that there had also been problems in Inverleith Park.

Chair Report - Emma Phillips had been approached by Maddie and Marks regarding organising the Blackhall Dip Christmas event, which they were no longer able to

undertake. It was agreed that the Community Council did not have the capacity to carry out the task. However as in previous years it was agreed that it would be willing in principle to pay for the Christmas tree. It was agreed that the Secretary should contact Maddie and Marks to explore the arrangements and cost should the Christmas event not proceed.

Emma Phillips noted that there was possibility of extending the City's new bike hire scheme to Craigleith Retail Centre. After discussion it was agreed that she would respond positively.

Consultation on low emission zones, city centre pedestrian improvements - local residents are encouraged to take part in the current consultation which concludes on 3 November. The discussion highlighted the need to improve where we live in terms of pollution, improved park and ride facilities and better public transport, as well as a tax on work parking spaces.

Edinburgh Association of Community Councils - improved communication would be welcomed.

Community Council matters

Alan Denham reported on the planning application for an 8-storey block of flats adjacent to Orchard Brae House on Queensferry Road which had generated 47 objections. The developer has now withdrawn the planning application. A further planning application at 46 Craigleith Road for an infill house on a gap site had generated over 20 objections.

The applicant behind the proposed care home in Hillhouse Woods, Queensferry Road had now appealed to the Scottish Government DPEA against no decision being made by Edinburgh Council within the 2 month deadline. The Community Council was using the 14 day period to submit new and additional information to DPEA and it was agreed that the paper should be shared with local residents. (The original objections submitted to Edinburgh Council have now been forwarded to DPEA and they and the additional information have now been added to the DPEA web site).

The Council's intention to introduce temporary road restrictions at the Queensferry Road / Craigleith Road junction from 23 October 2018 to 1 February 2019 while the traffic lights are renewed and the road resurfaced, was noted.

City Councillor Reports - noting the concerns of local residents in Hillpark Terrace about the rollout of the new Garden Wheelie scheme, Councillor Hal Osler said that there had been significant problems both in the changes to the wheelie collections in some parts of the city as well as the issuing of stickers for garden waste wheelies. Councillor Osler agreed to follow-up the e-mail from the residents in Hillpark Terrace.

She also noted that there had been problems of flooding in the Hillpark Brae area.

Next meeting - Monday 19 November 2018 in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall at 7.30pm

Alan Denham - Secretary
26 October 2018

