

## **Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting Monday 19 November 2018**

#### **Held in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall**

**Present :** Rupert Lezemore (Vice Chair), Alan Denham (Secretary), Peter May, Claudia Romero, James McClennan, Michael Cockburn, Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Gavin Barrie. In attendance 11 residents from the local community.

**Apologies :** Emma Phillips (Chair), Martin Riddell (Treasurer), Councillor Iain Whyte, Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, PC Holly Matheson

**Minutes of 22 October meeting** - approved. **Matters arising** from the October meeting. There were no specific matters arising. The matter regarding the public bench at Ravelston Dykes Road and Craigcrook Road has still to be looked into.

**Police Scotland Report** - there was no Police report as PC Holly Matheson was unfortunately unable to attend following an accident.

#### **Blackhall Community Trust (additional agenda item)**

Tina Woolnough gave an update on the Community Trust proposals for the nursery in Ravelston Park. Capital funding has meant that emphasis has been on phase 1 - acquiring the pavilion and the surrounding land for expansion. This is the subject of a Community Unit Transfer Stage 2 which will be considered by the Council's Finance and Resources Committee in March 2019. Phase 2 will be a new build nursery including a small amount of community space, on the land to be acquired.

There was a wide ranging discussion. For the proposal to be successful Tina Woolnough said that the Trust has to demonstrate community benefits and it has established a walking group, a book group and a coffee group, all of which will be run from the new building in due course. The new building will also cater for young people. Community transfer of the pavilion needs to meet specific criteria including the preparation of a business plan. With Council budgets under pressure, Councillor Gavin Barrie welcomed the involvement of the Trust in providing facilities for the nursery and the local community. Tina said the Trust will raise funds from grants available to the social sector once the transfer has taken place. She noted that there was a new web site and that there was to be a fund raising event on 1 March 2019.

**Chair Report** - In Emma Phillips (Chair) absence there was no Chair report.

#### **Community Council matters**

Alan Denham noted that there was a planning application to replace La Favorita at Hillhouse Road from Papa Johns, also pizzas. In principle there was no objection. The discussion focused on opening hours, particularly the proposal to stay open on Fridays and Saturdays until 2 am. Councillor Gavin Barrie brought the policy on hot food takeaways to the attention of the meeting which set out closing times for different locations. It was agreed the the Community Council would comment in the context of the policy.

With regard to the planning appeal for the proposed care home in Hillhouse Woods, Queensferry Road, it was noted that Edinburgh Council had not offered the Scottish Gov-

ernment DPEA Reporters' Unit any supplementary comments, having failed to process the application in the specified time period.

Rupert Lezmore enquired about progress on the Royal Victoria Hospital site on Craigleith Road. Councillor Hal Osler said that while NHS Lothian were demolishing the site, there was no obligation on them to inform Edinburgh Council. She said that a number of smaller hospital sites in Edinburgh had been reviewed by NHS Lothian and the Royal Victoria and Astley Ainslie sites were surplus, with Gilmerton being the only site to be retained by NHS Lothian. In response to a question, Edinburgh Council could not insist on a requirement for a care home on the Royal Victoria Hospital site. NHS Lothian, like other public bodies, were seeking to maximise financial returns.

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 at the last meeting. Councillor Osler said that the works had now been delayed to the spring 2019.

### **City Councillor Reports**

Councillor Hal Osler said that the biggest problem recently has been wheelies, particularly the rollout of the wider changes to coincide with changes to the garden wheelies collection. After 6 weeks of operation, 35 streets in Craigleith / Blackhall were failing to have their wheelies uplifted on the designated day of Friday. She said that officers are aware of the problems. She recommended leaving wheelies out until collected. Glass collection was particularly problematic and it may be easier to take to collection facilities at super-stores or elsewhere.

Sandwich boards policy - Rupert Lezmore welcomed the Council's new policy but was concerned there were no restrictions on other clutter and signs affecting pavements, including temporary road signs which often blocked more than half of the pavement. Councillor Hal Osler acknowledged that the Council needed to improve its service.

**AOCB - pedestrian traffic lights Blackhall Library** - a member of the public voiced concern about the red light jumping at the pedestrian traffic lights at Blackhall Library on Queensferry Road. The incident had involved her husband and a private cab, fortunately her husband had not been injured. She had reported it to Police Scotland but in the absence of corroboration she had been informed that there was little Police Scotland could do. Councillor Gavin Barrie said that as the Council license private cabs, the matter could be reported to the Council. After discussion it was agreed that the Secretary would follow up his previous e-mail with the Council on the problems at this crossing with Council officials.

**Traffic accident Strachan Road / March Road junction** - there was no information available to what appeared to have been a serious accident on 5 November involving a motor cyclist and a car. The meeting noted that there had been a second accident at virtually the same location on 19 November. The Secretary agreed to seek information from Police Scotland.

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

Alan Denham - Secretary  
22 November 2018

