

## **Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting Monday 15 April 2019**

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

**Present :** Alan Denham (Secretary and Acting Chair), Claudia Romero, James McClenan, Peter May, Michael Cockburn; Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Gavin Barrie, Max Mitchell and Iain Whyte. In attendance 7 residents from the local community.

**Apologies :** Emma Phillips (Chair), Martin Riddell (Treasurer), Rupert Lezmore (Vice Chair), Deidre Brock MP.

**Minutes of 18 March meeting** - approved.

**Matters arising** from 18 March meeting:-

Gully drains - it was noted that a large number of gully drains within Blackhall had been cleared. Councillor Hal Osler said that it was part of a programme to reduce flooding.

**Police Scotland Report** - there was no police presence or report.

Martin Riddell in written comments had noted the increase in youth activity in the Maiden-craig area and Ravelston Woods. The view at the meeting was that this often coincided with the last day of term and there had been no obvious problems in the Woods. The CCTV camera at Maidencraig had been removed on Saturday and reinstated Monday. Local resident said that previous problems in Cammo Woods had moved to Lauriston Castle. Riot squad was available if necessary, as well as the use of body cameras to identify the leaders.

It was noted that a CCTV camera had been installed in Ravelston Park some years ago. Councillor Iain Whyte, who had supported it, agreed to establish whether it was still working.

**Chair Report** - there was no Chair report.

#### **Other Community Council Matters**

Alan Denham (Secretary) reported on various planning and other matters :-

AMA housing development, Ravelston Dykes Road - the Community Council had commented on the application to remove a number of trees from the area. It had requested the planting of new trees, given the trees on the site was protected by a Tree Preservation Order and the site was also part of the Corstorphine Hill Special Landscape Area.

Hillhouse Road Woods - the Council's response was noted.

Consultation papers :-

Edinburgh Bus Users' Group - agreed that the Community Council should attend the meeting. A local resident noted the mismatch between the frequencies of the services 41 and 43 on the Queensferry Road corridor, resulting in both services arriving at the same time.

Low Emission Zone - Transport Scotland workshops - noted but no action required  
Pavement clutter (Living Streets Group Edinburgh ) - in discussion no significant problems were identified in Blackhall or Craigleith, other than surplus poles.  
Planning Democracy workshop - no action proposed.

**Councillor Reports** - Councillor Max Mitchell had been contacted by Hillpark residents concerned about horse droppings from horses and ponies exercised on Corstorphine Hill and also Ravelston Woods. Unlike dog excrement which owners are legally obliged to remove, the law does not require horse droppings to be removed by the owners. It was acknowledged that there could be a potential health and safety issue.

Councillor Hal Osler said that following the site levelling at the Royal Victoria Hospital site, there was concern from local Craigleith residents about future development. She said that no planning application had been submitted and local residents would be informed in advance through a pre-application notice (PAN). A masterplan had been prepared by NHS Lothian and the City Council which also provided for the safeguarding of the trees on the Craigleith Road frontage, the subject of a tree preservation order. Councillor Gavin Barrie said that further information was available on the NHS Lothian web site and It was agreed that this information would be included on the Community Council web site.

Councillor Osler also noted that the City Council had approved the purchase of the Pavilion in Ravelston Park by the Blackhall Community Trust.

**AOCB** - a local resident raised a number of problems in the **Groathill** area:-

Access to the service facilities at Craigleith Retail Park was taking place early and late, contrary to the time conditions in the planning permission. Councillor Iain Whyte agreed to contact the Council's planning enforcement section. It was also noted that a planning application is expected to be submitted to formalise the change.

Craigleith Retail Park - the resident was concerned about the increase in number of food outlets, contrary to the original permission. It was noted by the Councillors that hot food and coffee shops were not regarded as food stores in terms of the Use Classes Order. Given the changes in the retail sector, a view was that occupied shops were preferable to empty ones.

Groathill Storage Yard - Councillor Hal Osler said that the site was part of the City Council's review of surplus sites. It was also noted that part of the site was required for a tram stop, should the tram route be extended as originally proposed.

Groathill Road South - poor standard of road repair by Scottish Water. Councillor Osler agreed to investigate further with officials.

**20 mph Monitoring** - local Craigcrook Road residents (close to the Park) were disappointed that speed monitoring had not yet taken place.

**Next Community Council meeting, including annual general meeting** -  
Monday 20 May 2019 in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall at 7.30pm

Alan Denham  
Secretary  
16 April 2019

