

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting Monday 18 March 2019

Held in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall

Present : Alan Denham (Secretary and Acting Chair), Claudia Romero, James McClenan, Michael Cockburn; Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler and Iain Whyte. In attendance 4 residents from the local community.

Apologies : Emma Phillips (Chair), Martin Riddell (Treasurer), Rupert Lezmore, Peter May, Fergus Henderson, Councillor Max Mitchell, Deidre Brock MP.

Minutes of 18 Febraury meeting - approved.

Matters arising from 18 February and previous meetings:-

Graffiti - The City Council was commended for the swift and effective removal of large scale graffiti on the footpath link between Queensferry Road and Hillpark Way which was highly visible to travellers on Queensferry Road. Councillor Hal Osler said that following a Council review of graffiti, priority was to be given to the removal of gang 'taggings', in this case "Area 51". It was also noted that similar graffiti had been removed from a bus shelter near Orchard Brae House. Likewise the graffiti adjacent to the BT Telephone Exchange at been removed as part of the improvements of the corner site by Mactaggart and Mickel, including new fencing.

Bench at Abingers - while there had been no progress on the bench at Abingers, the bench at the corner of Strachan Road and Hillhouse Road (Queensferry Road) had been reinstated after several years.

Police Scotland Report - there was no police report. The open session by Police Scotland at Stewart Melville's on 21 March was noted.

Chair Report - there was no Chair report.

Other Community Council Matters

Alan Denham (Secretary) reported on various planning applications :-

46 Craigleith Road - after 3 refusals of planning permission for a single house in a gap site, the applicant has now appealed to the Scottish Government Reporters against most recent refusal.

169 Craigleith Road - the redevelopment of the former petrol filling station with 8 three storey houses approved.

184-186 Queensferry Road - the application for a 10 metre high metal industrial shed adjacent to Maidenraig Crescent had been refused planning permission. There had been 34 objections and the speedy refusal - within one month of validation - contrasted with the slow processing of the Hillhouse Road Woods Care Home application to which there was over 150 objections.

Hillhouse Road Woods Care Home planning application - decision issued by the Reporter on 23 February. The decision to refuse the application was welcomed. The meeting discussed the next steps including the Edinburgh Local Development Plan Review, as well as suggestion of Community buy out - there was no support for this approach.

Roads matters :-

Telford Road - following an onsite meeting on 19 February to review the changes to lane markings at Groathill Road North / Groathill Avenue junctions, the Council's Road Safety team agreed to look at the possibility of minor changes to road markings and also extending yellow boxes, The east bound direction was more problematic than the west direction. The Road safety team said that the changes had been introduced after 6 serious accidents. A full review of the scheme will take place after 3 years.

Queensferry Road - Councillor Hal Osler said that an emergency motion had been put to the recent meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee seeking a report on the introduction of bus lanes on Queensferry Road.

Councillor Reports - Councillor Hal Osler reported on the rubber strips to monitor the 20mph scheme. A city wide parking review was also underway including north Edinburgh.

Councillor Iain Whyte has asked officials to look at the scope for introducing count down timers at pedestrian traffic lights.

Other matters raised during discussion :-

Resurfacing of Strachan Road - it was noted that surface treatment is programmed. The 3 levels of treatment to road surface maintenance was then discussed.

Queensferry Road gully drains - the City Council was criticised for the use of metal plates to cover defective gully drains - there were several on the section between Telford Road and Corbiehill Road - and elsewhere the large number of blocked drains which leads to other problems including the collapse of the drain because of surface water penetration leading to road defects. (It was noted that the recent resurfacing at Craigleith Junction had taken place round blocked gully drains which had not been unblocked.) The lime mortar on the adjacent stone walls was also weakened by water spray which was not able to drain away, resulting in high maintenance costs. The Councillors confirmed the understanding that as part of the City Council's budget savings, the City Council had only one gully sucker to serve the whole city.

Environmental solutions to road defects - although there were a number of innovative schemes nationwide - including the use of recycled plastics - such schemes had not yet been considered for Edinburgh.

AOCB - no matters raised

Next Community Council meeting - Monday 15 April 2019 in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall at 7.30pm

Alan Denham
Secretary
19 March 2019