

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting including 2019 AGM Monday 17 June 2019

Held in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall

Present : Alan Denham (Secretary and Acting Chair), Martin Riddell (Treasurer), Peter May, Paul Moran, Fergus Henderson, Inverleith Ward Councillor Iain Whyte; PC Laura Addison (Police Scotland). In attendance : 4 residents from the local community.

Apologies : James McClennan, Emma Phillips (Chair), Rupert Lezemore (Vice Chair), Claudia Romero, Michael Cockburn; Councillors Gavin Barrie, Hal Osler, Max Mitchell; Deidre Brock MP; Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP; Lesley Gill

Minutes of 20 May approved

Matters arising from 20 May meeting:-

Ravelston Park CCTV - Councillor Iain Whyte confirmed that the CCTV is still operational.

Groathill Road South new housing construction - following complaints about temporary fencing extending on to the adjacent walkway and cycleway, prompt action by Councillor Max Mitchell had resulted in the fence's removal.

Blackhall Dip Planters - Alan Denham confirmed that the planters, provided by the Council as part of the Council's environmental improvements for the Dip shopping centre, could no longer be maintained by the Council because of budget reductions and staff availability. The Council had offered to provide new plants for replanting.

Edinburgh Bus Users Group - noted that the timetables of Lothian bus services 41 and 43 change on 14 July.

AMA Housing Development fence security - both the Council and AMA had reported back - it was noted that the fencing between the Ravelston Woods and the AMA site had been strengthened with heras safety fencing and the site was compliant with relevant Health and Safety Regulations. The recommendation for dog walkers is that they should be kept on the lead to avoid dogs entering the pond.

Police Scotland Report - PC Laura Addison reported on :-

Horses - following issues and problems with horse walking on Corstorphine Hill - the problem of horses accessing Ravelston Golf Course via a broken fence near Blackhall Primary School is still to be pursued.

Queensferry Road / Craigleith Road Junction - Police Scotland will monitor the problem of motorists skipping the red filter light

Police Scotland had carried out a number of road traffic stops in the area to identify wear and tear of vehicles; also apprehended motorist in possession of drugs.

Anti-social behaviour - much reduced . Reduction in house break-ins also welcomed

During discussion on car thefts and house break-ins, PC Addison said that the car thieves would break-in to steal the car fob from within the house. Measures to minimise house break-ins while on holiday included sensor lights, stone chipping to the house, glass bottles behind doors; should also inform neighbours and ensure wheelie bins are put out.

Chair Report and Other Community Council Matters - Alan Denham reported on the following :-

184-186 Queensferry Road - Actualultra Ltd (Baillie Signs) had appealed to the City Council for refusal of planning permission for a 8-metre high industrial shed adjacent to their premises. Objectors had a 2 week period to provide additional comments.

Craigcrook Castle planning application for a care home - the Community Council had objected because the site was in the greenbelt and an exception to the policy should not set a precedent for housing development in the adjacent horse field. There was also concern on the impact of local GP services.

Queensferry Road Bus Lanes - noted that the Transport and Environment Committee would on 20 June consider a paper recommending that bus lanes should not be provided from South Queensferry to the City Centre in both directions as modelling had shown the volumes of traffic at 44000 vehicles a day would result in delays elsewhere in the bus network. During discussion it was noted that improvements of Lothian bus services was dependent on the introduction of bus lanes.

Bus lane extension of hours of operation to 7days 7am-7pm; and Reduction in number of bus stops - noted that papers would be submitted to the September meeting of the Transport and Environment

Davidson Mains - gas network improvement - significant delays expected from 1 July

Inverleith Neighbourhood Network - following an outline of the network by Councillor Iain Whyte it was agreed that the Community Council should be represented.

Community Council elections - it was noted that elections will take place in September 2019 and it was important that there should be sufficient interest to maintain the community council serving Craighleith and Blackhall.

Councillor Reports - Craighleith Shopping Centre gates - Councillor Iain Whyte had reported the problem of the gates operating outwith the approved hours to the enforcement section of the Planning Department in the City Council

AOCB - a local resident reported problems with parking adjacent to Ravelston Park and the need for the white lines at crossing points to be extended. Councillor Iain Whyte agreed to explore with officials in the City Council the scope for extending the lines.

Sighthill and other recycling centres - Peter May questioned whether the tonnage of recycling will reduce due to the less convenient hours of access for many working residents.

Next Community Council meeting - Monday 19 August 2019 in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall at 7.30pm (subject to confirmation)

Alan Denham Secretary 20 June 2019

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2019 Monday 17 June 2019

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Present : Alan Denham, Martin Riddell, Peter May, Paul Moran, Fergus Henderson, Inverleith Ward Councillor Iain Whyte. In attendance : 4 residents from the local community.

Apologies : James McClennan, Emma Phillips , Rupert Lezmore, Claudia Romero, Michael Cockburn; Councillors Gavin Barrie. Hal Osler, Max Mitchell; Deidre Brock MP; Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP; Lesley Gill

Minutes of 21 May approved and adopted - proposed by Martin Riddell

Chair and Secretary Report - Alan Denham summarised the annual report covering :- Planning applications - the Community Council had objected to development proposals at Orchard Brae House (7-storey block of flats), industrial shed at 184-186 Queensferry Road, and an infill house at 46 Craigleith Road, subsequently approved by the Scottish Government Reporter on appeal. Another Reporter had dismissed the appeal for a care home in the Hillhouse Road Woods - a welcome outcome for local residents.

Crime and anti-social behaviour - the reductions in both were welcomed

Traffic and Transport issues - the report notes concerns about the operation of the 20mph scheme and excessive speeds. Also concerns about poor road resurfacing and build up of traffic on Strachan Road and Craigcrook Road in peak hours.

Blackhall Dip Christmas tree - the Community Council once again contributed £250 towards the cost of the tree

Community engagement - continues to be important using a variety of means including social media.

Annual Accounts - Martin Riddell presented the draft accounts. He said that income had exceeded expenditure this year with the main items of expenditure being the hire of the room in Blackhall St Columba's Church, payment to the Information Commissioner, and contribution to the Christmas tree. The balance at 31 March was £1019.39.

The meeting approved the draft accounts and authority was given to finalise them and for them to be signed accordingly.

Demit of current office bearers and election of office bearers

At the point of the meeting Councillor Iain Whyte took the chair. The meeting agreed to elect the following :-

Chair - Alan Denham - proposed Martin Riddell, seconded Paul Moran

Vice Chair - Rupert Lezmore - proposed Alan Denham, seconded Martin Riddell

Secretary - Alan Denham - proposed Martin Riddell, seconded Paul Moran

Treasurer - Martin Riddell - proposed Alan Denham, seconded Paul Moran

Alan Denham Secretary 20 June 2019

