

Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council

Minutes of Meeting Monday 18 November 2019

Held in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall

Present : Stuart Pinkerton, Alan Denham, Martin Riddell, James McLennan, Emma Phillips, Duncan Osler, Michael Cockburn, Grant Roger, Inverleith Ward Councillors Hal Osler, Max Mitchell, 2 members of the public.

Apologies : Councillors Gavin Barrie, Iain Whyte.

Meeting of 21 October 2019 - approved.

Matters arising :-

ATM in Blackhall Dip - no progress because of election period.

Drain cover at junction of Craigcrook Road/Jeffrey Avenue - no progress. Ward Councillors agreed to look into the matter.

Seaforth Drive - gully drains cleaned. Also noted drains on Queensferry Road (up to Strachan Road?) had also been cleaned

Police Scotland were not able to attend the meeting and no written report had been provided. The Chair agreed to contact PC Lindsay Johnson who it is understood had taken over from PC Holly Matheson.

Chair Report

Stuart Pinkerton referred to :- induction training for new Community Councillors, EACC meeting and moves to change the format, and secure on-street bike parking in tenement areas - which was not likely to be relevant to much of Craigleith and Blackhall.

He also referred to the request from Craigleith Hill Neighbourhood Watch to join the Community Council as nominated representative. Stuart said that he was waiting for information from the City Council, but despite reminders it had not been forthcoming. Agreed to consider the request further at the December meeting.

Bus Lanes

The City Council's consultation on the hours of operation of the bus lanes to 7 days 7am-7pm was discussed. Agreed to submit comments acknowledging the value of bus lanes to encourage greater use of buses and as a basis of an improved bus service on the Queensferry Road corridor. The extension to the weekends appeared to be an administrative convenience and was not justified when there were no delays to bus services. Such a change could have an impact on locally based facilities including Blackhall St Columba's Church. The Secretary was to attend the Stakeholders' meeting on 21 November.

Other Community Council Matters

Defibrillator - Michael Cockburn said that Blackhall St Columba's Church had discussed the siting of their defibrillator, currently within the Church premises and relocating it

outside. They had questioned whether it would be better located at Blackhall Dip. Following discussion the view was that outside all churches should be the preferred option.

Election hustings - in the limited time available it was concluded there was not time to organise a hustings. Agreed to publicise other hustings in Edinburgh West and Edinburgh North. Subsequently noted that there were 3 hustings in Edinburgh West and 2 hustings in Edinburgh North and Leith constituencies proposed.

LIDL - forthcoming planning application in Craigleith Centre - while the addition of the shop would be welcome, the implications for increased traffic and possible congestion at the centre were noted. The inadequate access for cyclists at the Centre was also noted. The Community Council would consider further when a planning application is submitted.

Blackhall Dip - concern about the absence of a Lollipop person to see children through the crossing. Councillor Hal Osler said that the vacancy had now been filled.

Maidencraig Crescent - no action by the Council to clear overgrown trees from streetlights. Upgraded streetlights - noted that all streetlights in Craigleith and Blackhall are to be changed to LED lighting during December and January.

Orchard Road - traffic accident - van driver had been charged with careless driving.

Next meeting : Monday 16 December at 7.30pm Blackhall St Columba's Church

Alan Denham, Secretary
21 November 2019